

Clinton campaign manager converts to Catholicism

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton's campaign manager, James B. Baker, has converted to Catholicism, a move that has drawn criticism from some of his political allies.

Monastery wants to move into electronic age

LONDON — A monastery in the north of England is planning to move into the electronic age by installing a computer system to manage its affairs.

Man hands in 35 cars

MANCHESTER — A man has handed in 35 cars to a charity, a record for the city.

nt sit

of 300

happy

to st

to st

to st

to st

to st

to st

to st

to st

to st

to st

Six dead in Turkey's Kurdish rebel conflict

ANKARA (R) — Four Kurdish guerrillas and two members of a pro-government militia were reported killed in a clash in eastern Turkey Saturday on the sidelines of a Turkish military raid into northern Iraq. Anatolia News Agency said the five-hour engagement between security forces and Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas happened near the village of Dokuzdam, close to where the mountainous borders of Turkey, Iran and Iraq meet. Around 15,000 Turkish troops backed by air power have been fighting the PKK in Kurdish-held northern Iraq for the last two weeks. The guerrillas use bases in Iraq to attack into Turkey. Turkey said Friday that Iranian and Syrian troops had massed near northern Iraq in an apparent response to the Turkish offensive, an accusation denied by Syria (See story on page 2).



Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Volume 22 Number 6653

AMMAN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1997, JUMADA II 5, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 fils

King describes assault on Misha'al as 'irresponsible act' by anti-peace 'party' HM, reaffirming confidence in Crown Prince Hassan, dismisses 'talk' about new successor

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has described last week's attempt on the life of Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al as an "irresponsible act" carried out with the intention of destroying the peace process and poisoning the atmosphere in the Middle East.

"I cannot explain it except to say that it is an irresponsible act carried out by a party that does not want peace, does not want the peace process to continue and wants the atmosphere poisoned at this stage, especially that negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians have resumed," the King said in an interview with the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat.

His Majesty did not name the "party" behind the assassination attempt, which is believed to be the Israeli government headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But the King, in an indication that the Israelis were responsible for the botched

operation, reserved some harsh words for Mr. Netanyahu.

"I am personally unable to reach a conclusion as to how the Israeli prime minister thinks. This makes me very worried. In every meeting we've had so far, we hear about intentions, about determination to continue the peace process, but a great deal of what we had expected has not been translated into reality that is being felt by the people. Matters in fact are going into the other direction, in the direction of despair," the King said.

In the wide-ranging interview with the newspaper's Managing Editor Khairallah Khairallah, the King dismissed talk in Jordan about the issue of succession especially after the letter that His Majesty the King sent to HRH Prince Hamzeh last month on his 18th birthday.

He described HRH Crown Prince Hassan as "qur'at ayni" whose literal translation is "joy to my eyes."

"The Crown Prince enjoys my confidence. He is my right hand man. There is no question about (change)," the King said.

"Prince Hassan and I have been talking for some time about our family and who would succeed Prince Hassan, after a long life; about the possibility of having an order for choosing the best and the most qualified; the one who enjoys the support of all, for shouldering responsibility at the proper time. These ideas have their roots in our Muslim culture which has democracy. That's all there is to the matter."

Following is the full text of the King's interview:

Q: Your Majesty, how do you see the effect of the attack against Mr. Khaled Misha'al on Jordan?

A: I think that Jordan took the stand it was supposed to take in that case. Jordan has always been against violence and against the use of its territory by any party to harm anyone. Naturally,



Jordan cannot, under any circumstances, accept that its nationals be exposed to any harm or danger whether inside Jordan or outside of it. We thank God for (Mr. Misha'al's) safety. He is now totally cured and he escaped what was planned for him.

Q: What, in your opinion, are the implications of the

incident?

A: In fact, the issue is mysterious and I cannot explain it except to say that it is an irresponsible act from a party that does not want peace, does not want the peace process to continue and wants the atmosphere poisoned at this stage

(Continued on page 7)

Crown Prince says Kingdom concerned with issues of regional dimension

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Saturday that Jordan is concerned with the four major issues of water, borders, Jerusalem and refugees which have regional implications that go beyond the direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

During a meeting with a delegation from the British Royal College for Defence

Studies, Prince Hassan stressed that Jordan's concern for these issues should in no way be construed as a Jordanian desire to interfere in the mandate of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiators.

Prince Hassan emphasized Jordan's full support for the Oslo accords and the Palestinian's right to establish their independent state on their national soil, with Jerusalem being the focal

point for that state.

The Crown Prince reiterated during the meeting that the comprehensive peace which fulfills the rights of all parties on the basis of U.N. resolutions and international legitimacy must be achieved. He said a lasting peace must include Syria and Lebanon.

Prince Hassan rejected (Continued on page 7)

Islamists laud King for release of Hamas founder, say no intention to change mind on election boycott

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamists Saturday lauded His Majesty King Hussein's role in securing the release of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, founder and spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, but said they will not retract their decision to boycott the coming elections.

Muslim Brotherhood's overall leader Abdul Majeed Thneibat declared: "We have no intention to reconsider the boycott decision," and added that "time

and conditions are not suitable, the government was stubborn and is still refusing to open a dialogue."

He reiterated that the higher decision-making body of the movement, the Shura Council, will abide by its resolution to punish with expulsion both those who will run and those who will vote in the elections.

Sources at the Muslim Brotherhood said the Islamists will send a message to the King in appreciation for his efforts in the Khaled Misha'al and

Sheikh Ahmad Yassin cases, but added that the message will confirm their final decision to boycott the parliamentary elections.

Muslim Brotherhood leader, Abdul Rahim Ukour, said the King's initiative towards Khaled Misha'al and Sheikh Yassin deserved appreciation and added "such noble gestures are not surprising from the King."

IAF Deputy Secretary General Abdul Latif Arahi (Continued on page 7)

Mutawi says Israel will release Palestinian prisoners soon, denies deal over release

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi Saturday said that Israel will release Palestinian prisoners in the near future but denied that there was a deal struck for their release and that of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin last Thursday.

"We have information to believe that some Palestinian prisoners will be released soon," the minister said to reporters. He declined to give the date of release or the number of prisoners to be freed.

The minister said that the

reason for the release is that His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly urged Israel to comply with all agreements it has signed and "to release Palestinian prisoners."

Dr. Mutawi said that some of the Jordanian prisoners held in the Israeli jails, are "also expected to be freed."

The minister's comments came following media reports claiming that Jordan had struck a "deal" to exchange the two suspects involved in the assault on Khaled Misha'al, with Sheikh Yassin, the founder of Hamas, and several hundreds of Hamas prisoners

in Israeli prisons.

On Wednesday, Israel released Sheikh Yassin following eight years in prison. He was serving a life sentence for ordering attacks against the Jewish state.

Dr. Mutawi stressed that the Hamas prisoners will be released and free to go to Palestinian self-rule areas, not deported.

The minister reiterated that Sheikh Yassin will head back to the Gaza Strip in the coming few days "after finishing his treatment in Jordan."

(Continued on page 7)

Sheikh Yassin ready to coexist with Jews, will go home within 48 hours

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sources close to Hamas told the Jordan Times that Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmad Yassin will be going home within "a maximum of 48 hours" on a Jordanian helicopter that will lift the ailing man back to Gaza. The source that asked not be named said that Sheikh Yassin will be accompanied by two Jordanian physiotherapists.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that Sheikh Yassin said on Saturday he was ready to coexist with Israelis as long as Palestinian rights are respected.

"We have a people, four million Palestinians in the diaspora, who want to return to the homes from which they were expelled, therefore, we are prepared to live with the Jews, the best life, in brotherhood and cooperation and coexistence, on condition they do not gobble up our rights," Sheikh Yassin said in an interview broadcast on state-run Israel television's Arabic-language service.

Canadian envoy to Tel Aviv leaves for home in protest over attack on Misha'al

Combined agency dispatches

CANADIAN INTELLIGENCE officers have interviewed two men being held in Jordan over a bungled attempt to murder an Islamist leader and confirmed they are not Canadians, the Toronto Globe and Mail said on Saturday.

Quoting an unnamed source, the newspaper said officers of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) interviewed the two men in Amman and concluded that they "knew nothing about Canada."

The Canadian government has recalled its ambassador to Israel for consultations and said it was considering further action over allegations Israeli secret agents used Canadian passports in the bungled assassination attempt.

Canada's ambassador to Israel, David Berger, said at the Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv prior to his early Saturday flight: "For our government, it is unacceptable for anybody authorized by a foreign government to use a Canadian passport for illegal purposes and that is really why I am going home."

"We've asked a number of questions and we hope to get answers to these questions in the coming days after the Israeli government goes back to business on Sunday," Mr. Berger told reporters.

Israeli officials have refused to comment on the attack, but analysts have said it bore unmistakable Mossad imprints.

The two Canadian passport holders were detained in Amman last week after a failed attack against Hamas politburo chief Khaled

Misha'al. Public Security Department (PSD) officials allowed the CSIS to interview the two men, the newspaper report said.

Canadian officials could not immediately comment on the report.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) strongly praised on Saturday Ottawa's recalling its ambassador to Israel over allegations Israeli secret agents used Canadian passports in a bungled attempt to murder an Islamist leader in Jordan and a Hamas leader in Gaza said the group reserved the right to avenge last week's attack.

"The recall of the ambassador is a true indictment of the Israeli government's involvement in this act of state terrorism," said

(Continued on page 7)

Israel's U.N. credentials may be challenged again

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Islamic countries indicated Friday that, for the first time in several years, they would make reservations about accepting Israel's U.N. credentials, stressing that its delegation did not represent the occupied territories.

No date has yet been set for the issue to come before the General Assembly.

A communiqué issued following a meeting Thursday of foreign ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) said they "reaffirmed that the accreditation of Israel's delegation... do not apply to the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied

(Continued on page 7)

Hundreds saved from blazing Cypriot liner

LIMASSOL (R) — Some 700 passengers and crew from a Cypriot cruise ship ablaze in the Mediterranean Saturday arrived at the port of Limassol after evacuating the listing liner in the early hours of the morning.

Some had taken to the lifeboats and others were winched to safety by British Air Force helicopters.

"It is burning from end to end," Cyprus ports authority senior navigator Akis Artemis said.

The crew of the Romanica deserve credit because they managed to evacuate the vessel without one single injury.

The 9,500-tonne Romanica took a 30 degree tilt after the fire broke out in the engine room 60 nautical miles south of Cyprus early Saturday. According to some reports, the fire started in a control panel in the engine room.

Passengers and crew from the Romanica arrived at Limassol at 1:30 p.m. local time onboard the Princessa Victoria, the cruise liner which picked them up after the Romanica sent out a Mayday call for help at 5:50

a.m. Some of them waved at journalists from the Victoria's deck, others huddled in blankets.

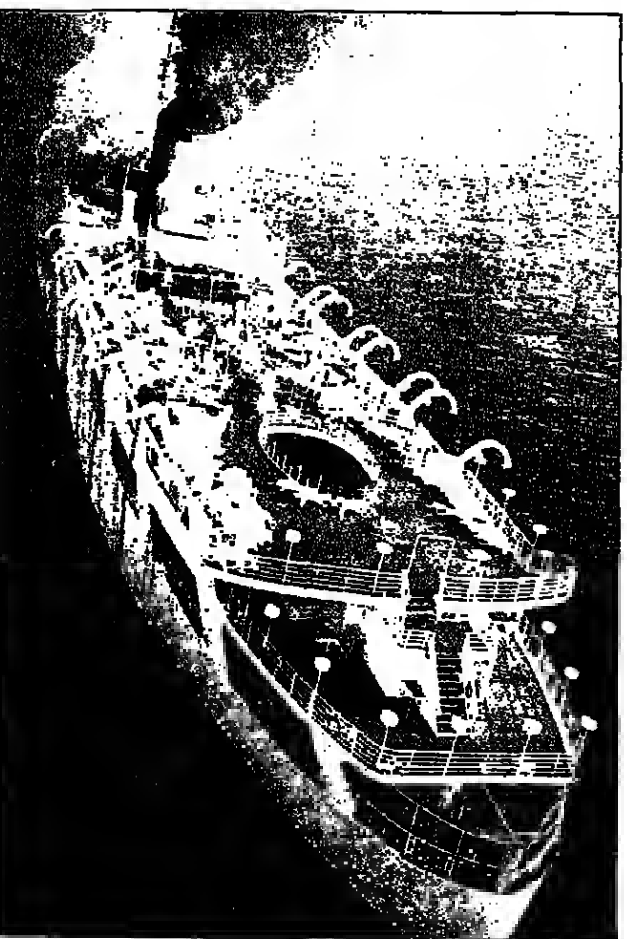
Cyprus police boarded the vessel to check identities. It is believed that many from the Romanica did not have the chance to pick up passports as they fled the burning ship.

The passengers from the Romanica included 225 Russians, 120 Britons, 34 Hungarians, 22 Swedes, 21 Dutch, 18 Germans, and smaller numbers from Poland and Norway. Six Cypriots were on board.

The ship, operated by New Paradise Cruises based in Limassol, was heading back from a day trip to Egypt with 487 passengers and 186 crew when the fire broke out.

Irish tourist Patricia Donlan, who was on board the Victoria, said: "We saw the ship burning as people in lifeboats were in the sea. They got them all."

Two Wessex helicopters from the British base of Akrotiri, on the southern tip



Smoke and flame rise from the 9,500-tonne Romanica cruise liner, 60 nautical miles south of Cyprus Saturday (Reuters photo)

At least 100 people killed as Algerian massacres continue

ALGIERS (AP) — At least 100 people were killed in a 48-hour spree of violence that included school bombings and bloody massacres, witnesses and newspapers said Saturday, the latest horror of Algeria's bloody insurgency.

Many residents of Blida, a garrison town 50 kilometres south of Algiers, fled their homes Friday night after assailants used home-made rockets and bombs to attack apartment buildings, killing five people and injuring 30, hospital sources said.

Groups of men armed with guns and sharp-edged weapons killed 75 others — including 34 children — in two massacres early Friday morning, and a third group slaughtered 20 members of a wedding party Thursday night, witnesses said.

There was no immediate government confirmation of the killings, and no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on Islamic militants, whose 1 1/2 year insurgency has left more than 75,000 people dead.

The assailants in Blida cut electrical power to the neighbourhoods they targeted before launching their assault, said witnesses interviewed at a train station in Algiers Saturday morning. They spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of reprisal.

The independent daily *Liberte* said the bombing targets in Blida included schools. Hospital sources said the attacks took place in central Blida, in the Sidi Yacoub and Bab Ezair neighbourhoods.

Blida is a stronghold of the Armed Islamic Group, Algeria's most violent insurgent faction, which has ignored a ceasefire called by a rival militant group, the Islamic Salvation Army.

In Maheima, a village just outside Blida, assailants slit the throats or cut off the heads of 26 adults and 12 children in a pre-dawn attack and then set their bodies on fire, witnesses said. The attackers injured dozens of people and kidnapped two young women.

At about the same time, armed men killed 37 people — including 22 children — in a similar massacre at the village of Ouled Benaissa, 50 kilometres south of Blida, the hospital sources said, also speaking on anonymity.

And in Kharrouba, a village near Oran 350 kilometres west of Algiers, armed attack-

ers broke up a Thursday night wedding, killing 20 people aged 15 to 20 and injuring 30 others, a hospital source said.

Nine of the victims were decapitated, and one was hacked to death with a machete when he tried to intervene.

Newspapers close to the government mentioned none of the killings in their Saturday morning editions, focusing instead on regional elections planned by the military-backed government for Oct. 23.

The insurgency began after the military cancelled a 1992 parliamentary election runoff that Islamic fundamentalist parties were poised to win.

The militants want to overthrow the government and establish a state based on Koranic law.

Saudi court to consider British nurse's appeal

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's Court of Appeal began Saturday to consider an appeal by British nurse Lucille McLauchlan against her sentence of 500 lashes and eight years in prison for her role in the murder of an Australian colleague, a Saudi court official said.

The official told Agence France Presse that the Riyadh Court, which will meet on Saturday and Sunday, could decide to confirm the prison term and the lashes with a bamboo cane, or to reduce the sentence.

Lawyers for McLauchlan, 31, lodged an appeal Wednesday after she was found guilty by a court in

the eastern Saudi city of Khobar of complicity in the murder in December of Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford.

The fate of another British nurse, Deborah Parry, 38, who could face the death penalty in the case, is still not clear.

Defence lawyers said Friday that \$1.2 million "blood money" has been deposited in an Australian trust fund in a deal with Gilford's brother Frank to spare Parry's life.

The two women, who deny murdering Gilford, retracted confessions they said were made after sexual and physical abuse following their arrest.

Egypt uncovers call girl ring including actresses

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian police have uncovered a high-class call girl ring allegedly including two well-known Egyptian actresses, a police source told Agence France Presse (AFP) Saturday.

The ring, uncovered Friday, is said to include 21 young women, some of them minors. The girls were allegedly put into contact with rich Gulf Arabs by a 28-year-old go-between called "Madame Annel", who set up a rendezvous in her apartment not far from the Pyramids.

Madame Annel and the 21 girls in the ring have been arrested. The police also have questioned 18 clients, who later were released because under Egyptian law they are considered only as witnesses.

The police source told AFP that investigators had taken four months to pinpoint the

call-girls' base of operations, since they used cellular phones to escape detection.

Police officials have not given the names of the two actresses allegedly involved in the ring. But the opposition newspaper *Al-Ahram* on Saturday identified them as well-known film figures Hanaan Turk and Wafaa Amer, and published their photos on its front page.

Hanaan Turk is widely known for her starring role in the 1994 film "The Emigration" of Youssef Sahnoun. According to the newspaper, she billed some \$6,000 for her services. Other girls in the ring allegedly received between \$1,500 and \$3,000.

The second actress, Wafaa Amer, is best known for her roles in Egyptian soap operas and theatre pieces.

Al Riyadh criticises Albright's slip on Jewish settlements

RIYADH (AFP) — A Saudi Arabian newspaper on Saturday sharply criticised U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for calling Israeli settlements "legal" on an American television show four days ago.

The newspaper *Al Riyadh* wrote that Ms. Albright "expressed the true position of the American government, whose current views coincide with those of Likud," Israel's ruling party.

The newspaper added that when Ms. Albright visited the Middle East last month she gave "some satisfaction to the Arabs by making declarations regarding a non-binding halt to [Jewish] colonisation" of the West Bank. But, the paper said, as soon as she returned to Washington "she called the settlements legal."

Earlier on Wednesday, Ms. Albright told NBC television

that Israeli construction of new units at the West Bank settlement of Efrat, near Bethlehem, was legal.

The comment sparked a firestorm over what was seen as a new interpretation of the legality of Israeli policy.

Ms. Albright's spokesman said Friday that she had oversimplified in making remarks about Jewish settlement policies on the West Bank during an early morning interview with NBC television.

"She was not intending to make a legal judgement about settlements," said State Department spokesman James Rubin.

He said Ms. Albright "was trying to answer a 'sawtooth' question in the context of an interactive interview, where you try to make things simple for the American public, because it's being watched in the morning."



CANADA'S AMBASSADOR ON WAY HOME: Canadian Ambassador to Israel David Berger (right) at Ben Gurion Airport before departing from Israel on Friday. Israel voiced regret at Canada's recall of its ambassador in a row over forged Canadian passports carried by two alleged Mossad agents detained in Jordan last week after an attack on a Hamas leader (Reuters)

Syria denies military buildup on Turkey border

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria on Saturday denied Turkish reports that it was mobilising its forces on the border with Turkey.

"These news [reports] are fabricated and baseless," an official Syrian spokesman said in a statement.

A Turkish army official said on Friday that Iranian and Syrian troops had massed near a Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq in an apparent response to a Turkish military offensive against rebel Kurds in the area.

He gave no indication of the size of the Iranian and Syrian deployments but said they mostly consisted of armoured units. But he added that "it cannot be said that Turkey is in danger."

Earlier on Friday, Turkey's semi-official Anatolia News Agency said Syrian armoured units had built up near a triangle of territory where Syria,

Turkey and northern Iraq meet. It also said Iranian troops had been deployed on Iraq's border with northern Iraq.

Turkish forces have been fighting Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas in northern Iraq for almost two weeks.

Ankara often accuses Iran and Syria of aiding the PKK in its fight for Kurdish self-rule in southeast Turkey. Damascus and Tehran deny helping the rebels, Turkey says that the cross-border raid, the second major push into remote northern Iraq this year, will finish soon, once its objectives are achieved.

But the presence of 15,000 Turkish troops in northern Iraq, easily backed by Turkey's NATO allies, has angered Middle Eastern neighbours. Iraq has condemned the operation many times.

Iraqi Kurd group accuses Turkey of arming rival faction

ANKARA (AFP) — The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Saturday accused Turkey of arming a rival Iraqi Kurdish group and harming the balance of power in northern Iraq, amid an ongoing Turkish army incursion in the region.

"Turkey is providing the KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) with arms and financial aid, and this negatively affects the balance of power and the peace process in northern Iraq," the PUK's Ankara representative Shazad Saib told Agence France Presse. The PUK of Jalal Talabani and the KDP of Massoud Barzani have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf war. But their partnership collapsed in 1994 due to rifts on power-sharing and tax revenue, and the two groups have fought several times since then.

A fragile ceasefire between the two broken by the United States and Turkey has been holding since October last year, but the Kurdish Labour Party's (PKK) use of bases in northern Iraq and Turkish incursions have made the question more complex. "That Turkey has lost its neutrality between the PUK and the KDP is not helping the reconciliation process in Iraqi Kurdistan," Mr. Saib said.

Planned U.S.-sponsored peace talks between KDP and PUK officials here this month have been cancelled due to the latest fighting in northern Iraq.

Iran urges world community to confront Israeli 'terrorism'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran, a country often accused by Western countries of sponsoring terrorism, criticised the international community for "condoning" a recent bid by Israeli agents to assassinate a Hamas official in Jordan.

"The scandal shows that (the Israeli) regime disregards all international conventions in pursuing its expansionist aims," Iran's state radio said. "It is a blatant expression of Israeli terrorism."

The official radio also criticised the international community for "condoning the terrorist activities of the Zion-

ist regime."

"The world community and international institutions have a duty to confront such inhuman acts, a duty which now is more necessary than ever, as silence will only prompt Israel to continue them," it added.

Two men posing as Canadian tourists tried to kill Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) official, Khaled Meshal in Amman on Sept. 25, using a still unidentified chemical which put the Palestinian leader in hospital.

Canada has confirmed that the passports were forged and Canadian Foreign Minister

Lloyd Axworthy said Friday that Israel was involved in the assassination attempt.

The operation has outraged Jordan and Canada, which recalled its ambassador to Israel for consultations (See story on page 1).

Iran itself was accused by a German court in April of plotting to assassinate Kurd dissidents in a Berlin restaurant in 1992. The ruling led to a diplomatic row between the Islamic Republic and the European Union countries, which recalled their ambassadors. The envoys have still not returned.

Tehran says it needs to build more nuclear plants to produce electricity

TEHRAN (R) — Iran wants to build more nuclear power plants in order to produce 20 per cent of its electricity needs from atomic energy, a senior Iranian official was quoted Friday as saying.

Gholamreza Aghazadeh, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, said Iran was seeking an agreement with Russia for building two 440-megawatt (MW) nuclear power plant units as well as an accord for China to set up two 300 MW units, the official Iranian news agency, IRNA, said.

In a meeting in Vienna

with Hans Blix, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Aghazadeh said Iran had decided to produce 20 per cent of its electricity needs using nuclear power plants, it said.

Iran had also decided to build a second 1000 MW unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant after the construction by Russia of the first 1000 MW unit was completed, Mr. Aghazadeh said. He did not give further details.

The United States, which accuses Iran of backing ter-

rorism and seeking nuclear arms has asked Russia to abandon its \$800 million deal to build the plant in the Gulf port of Bushehr.

Tehran has denied the accusations and repeatedly said its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes and fully open for IAEA monitoring.

Washington has also objected to reported Chinese plans to build two 300 MW nuclear power stations in Khuzestan province near the Iraq border. Some reports said China had abandoned the deal.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Little Rosey
14:30 Jonny Quest
14:50 The Magic School Bus
15:00 Energy Express
15:30 American Chart Show
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
20:30 The struggle for Democracy
21:10 Renegade
22:00 News in English
22:30 One West Walkie
23:15 Sisters
23:59 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:10 Fajr
05:27 (Sunrise) Duha
11:24 Dhuhur
14:45 'Asr
17:21 Maghreb
18:38 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swatfeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 632366
Armenian Church Tel. 628236.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church
Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 688404
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Fine weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming relatively cool at night with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds northerly moderate. On Monday, it will be relatively cool

with showers expected in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom and winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.
Min/Max temp.
Amman 14/24
Aqaba 19/32
Deserts 11/29
Jordan Valley 19/32

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 26, Aqaba 33 Humidity
readings: Amman 28 per cent,
Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mazen Nball 830435
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'ir 791405
Dr. Fayez Dabbas 759155
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul 898140
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nakrouh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Zuhour Al Qadi 906606
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 657777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Dept. 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 773111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 680100
J. Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Co. 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200
HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 642816
Akileh Maternity 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir 77511/126
Army, Marka 89161/115
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09/990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital
(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital
(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:05 Bombay (RJ)
09:15 Larnaca (RJ)
09:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:25 Beirut (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:20 Madrid (RJ)
16:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:05 Paris (RJ)
17:50 London (RJ)

18:10 Adens (RJ)
18:10 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:15 Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
19:40 Rome (RJ)
20:10 Vienna (RJ)
20:15 Frankfurt, Paris (RJ)
00:05 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights

11:00 Sanaa (IY)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
12:35 Bahrain (GF)
14:20 Moscow (SU)
18:50 Tel Aviv (LY)
19:40 London (BA)
20:10 Beirut (ME)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
22:00 Istanbul (TK)
23:00 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:00 Madrid (RJ)
05:45 Beirut (RJ)
06:00 Larnaca (RJ)

08:25 Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30 Rome (RJ)
11:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:45 Vienna (IY)
12:20 Athens (RJ)
12:25 London (RJ)
17:00 Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
20:00 New Delhi (RJ)
20:10 Cairo (RJ)
20:25 Jeddah (RJ)
20:40 Damascus (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:25 Abu Dhabi, Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)
22:00 Jakarta (RJ)
01:00 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

06:00 Beirut (ME)
12:00 Sanaa (IY)
13:25 Doha (GF)
15:35 Moscow (SU)
20:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
21:00 Cairo (MS)
01:30 Amsterdam (KL)
05:15 Istanbul (TK)
07:45 Beirut (ME)
08:10 London (BA)

Royal Wings (RW)

06:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
08:15 Aqaba (RW)
09:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
16:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:55 Tel Aviv (RW)
20:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:50 Aqaba (RW)

Home News
Basma
review pr
German
conference
CP 'exploring' po
candidates to ticket
WHAT'S GOING ON
PLANNED
Children
at the P
for the
13-00

Princess Basma, women's election group review preparations for elections

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — HRH Princess Basma Saturday met with the Women's Committee for the 1997 Elections to review its preparations for the upcoming elections and for a meeting between women candidates and the public on Tuesday.

According to Salwa Nasser, the non-governmental coordinator at the Queen Alia Fund, around 23 women have confirmed their candidacy and will participate in Tuesday's event, which will take place at the Philadelphia Hotel at

11:00 a.m. "Each of these women will have five minutes to talk about herself and her election campaign programme, then there will be an open dialogue between them and the audience, in the presence of Princess Basma," Ms. Nasser told the Jordan Times.

These women, according to Ms. Nasser are: Aysheh Khawaja Razem (Amman First District); Toujan Faisal, Emily Nafaa, Muna Kurdi and Norma Nassar (Third District); Fatme Hassounab (Fourth District); Fardos Masri, Liala Faisal and Hiam Kalimat

(Fifth District); Nawal Faouri (Madaa); Ajayeh Hresis (Balqa); Sabah Ajouri and Nadia Bushnaq (Zarqa); Wisaf Ka'abneh (Central Bedouins); Samiha Tel, Fatme Obiedat and Latifeh Azza (Irbid); Alia Akhou Ershideb (Mafrag); Zaha Mahassneh (Jerash); Nawal Momani (Ajloun); Hafizeh Ma'aytah and Siham Bayadah (Karak); and Da'ad Sultan and Widad Shifawi (Aqaba).

The committee, formed in June on the initiative of the Jordanian National Forum for Women, which is chaired by Princess Basma, aims at coordinating the

Jordanian women's movement and efforts to achieve a better representation for women in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Committee members have been meeting with women candidates from several governorates in an effort to convince them to nominate only one woman from each district to improve the chances of women winning seats in the next Parliament.

The committee is a coalition of governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Visiting Hungarian officials discuss strengthening economic relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and Hungarian officials Saturday held talks at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply to discuss promoting economic relations.

T. Asztalos Ildiko, Secretary of State at the Hungarian Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, told the Jordanian officials, led by Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Secretary General Mohammad Halaqa, that her country wishes to promote bilateral ties and increase trade exchanges with Jordan.

Mrs. Ildiko, accompanied by a large delegation of government officials and businesspeople, said the visit is a follow-up to

HRH Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Hungary last July and is designed to open wider scopes of economic and other cooperation between the two countries.

The meetings have already resulted in the conclusion of an agreement between the Arab Bank and the Hungarian Aksum Bank to make available a \$30 million credit facility to help Jordan import Hungarian products, she said.

Both parties said they seek to conclude three agreements, covering protection of investments in the two countries, prevention of dual taxation, and a trade agreement.

According to the Min-

istry of Industry, Trade and Supply, these agreements should be concluded before the meeting of the Jordanian-Hungarian joint committee, which is due in January 1998.

The two sides also voiced their countries' desire to expand economic and trade exchanges, noting that Jordan, which last year imported \$7 million worth of Hungarian goods, exported only \$92,000 worth of Jordanian products in return.

The Hungarian officials said their government will facilitate the provision of visas to Jordanian businesspeople wishing to visit, with the purpose of further promoting bilateral relations.

Dr. Halaqa voiced Jordan's desire to organise a Jordanian trade fair in Hungary and to participate in international fairs scheduled to be held in Budapest, adding that trade exchanges between the two sides are bound to increase after Hungary's entry into the European Union.

According to Dr. Halaqa, great prospects exist for Jordan and Hungary to exchange phosphate-based fertilisers, since Hungary is a pioneer in the production of fertilisers and Jordanian phosphate is high-quality and suitable for the Hungarian fertiliser industry.



ENSOUR RECEIVES ISLAMIC AMBASSADORS: Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Minister of Administrative Development and Acting Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour Saturday receives credentials of the Senegalese Ambassador to Jordan Abdul Ahad Imhaki, Dr. Ensour also received the credentials of Djibouti Ambassador to Jordan Idris Ahmad Shrou (Petra photo)

Direct Aqaba-Algeria maritime route to open

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Algeria Saturday exchanged documents paving the way for the establishment of a direct maritime route between Aqaba and Algerian ports, marking the implementation of a protocol concluded during a visit to Jordan in mid-September by Algerian President Liamine Zeroual.

Mohammad Dalabih, director general of the Jordanian Ports Corporation, told a press conference at an inauguration ceremony aboard the Algerian vessel "Qasr Al Shallaleh" that the direct route will stimulate trade and open the door for further import-export exchanges by the private sectors in the two countries.

Al Arabi Kharouni, charge d'affaires at the Algerian embassy in Jordan, said the protocol on opening the line aims to further strengthen Jordanian-Algerian economic and trade links and to serve the national interests of the two countries.

During the Algerian president's visit, ministers from both countries concluded other agreements on the prevention of dual taxation, cooperation in customs affairs and legislation, as well as the inauguration of the maritime line.

The Algerian companies involved in maritime transport are showing increased interest in the direct route, because it would remove barriers obstructing trade exchanges, Mr. Kharouni stated.

The launching of the direct maritime route will give further impetus to endeavours taken by Amman and Algiers to strengthen economic ties, he said.

The Algerian commercial fleet consists of 51 vessels, which can be used for trade exchanges, not only between the two countries, but also between them and Asian and Mediterranean ports, as well as the Red Sea and Arab Gulf countries, he added.

The launching of the direct maritime route will give further impetus to endeavours taken by Amman and Algiers to strengthen economic ties, he said.

The Algerian commercial fleet consists of 51 vessels, which can be used for trade exchanges, not only between the two countries, but also between them and Asian and Mediterranean ports, as well as the Red Sea and Arab Gulf countries, he added.

The launching of the direct maritime route will give further impetus to endeavours taken by Amman and Algiers to strengthen economic ties, he said.

Tall named PPD director general

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Saturday appointed Bilal Hassan Tall as director general of the Press and Publications Department.

A council statement said the Cabinet made the appointment upon the recommendation of Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Musawi.

Mr. Tall succeeds Nayef Mola, who is running in the 1997 elections, and had previously served as director of the Islamic Studies Centre.

Current issues affecting Jerusalem's future focus of four-day conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from Arab and Islamic countries Saturday opened a four-day seminar entitled "Arab Jerusalem: The Key to Peace," organised by the Jerusalem Committee, to discuss issues pertaining to the city and the developments in the Middle East affecting its future.

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Huss delivered the keynote address at the opening session, in which he stressed that the Arab Nation genuinely seeks peace based on justice.

He said an unjust peace can only create frustration, which leads to instability, and as a result, a meaningless peace.

Referring to the Arab-

Israeli negotiations, Mr. Huss said since the balance of power is in favour of Israel, the negotiations cannot result in a just and comprehensive peace, because the Israelis want to impose their views on the Arabs.

"Therefore, it is our right to say that the peace concluded with Israel under the current circumstances is illegitimate and unjust. Legitimacy arises from the will of the people living in a democracy, but as there is no democracy in the Arab World, there is no peace," he said.

The former prime minister emphasised that Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian lands and must be returned to Arab sovereignty, adding that since the peace accords so far concluded between Israel and the Arabs do not provide for the return of Jerusalem, they are meaningless.

Omar Qadi, secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities, told the audience gathered at the Royal Cultural Centre that the organisation, in a demonstration of solidarity, has taken a number of measures benefiting the city and its Arab residents.

Mr. Qadi said the organisation has exempted the Arab city of Jerusalem from paying membership fees, and has decided to carry out restoration work on the holy places in the city, providing \$100,000

for this purpose, grant 100,000 Saudi riyals (approximately JD18,000) to support the Palestinian municipalities, and give 25 per cent of its revenues from investments to the Palestinian cities.

Zaki Gboul, who represented the Arab municipality of Jerusalem, warned that the city now faces danger and that the Arab and Islamic World has a duty to save the city.

He said the elected municipal council of Arab Jerusalem will continue the struggle by all available means to be re-instated and resume its responsibility.

German ambassador commends Kingdom's regional peace efforts, promises support

AMMAN (Petra) — Germany deeply appreciates Jordan's ongoing efforts toward establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and Bonn is determined to pursue a policy of supporting the Kingdom's efforts, according to German Ambassador to Jordan Peter Mende.

Germany considers Jordan a partner, not only in economic matters but also in cultural affairs, the ambassador said in a statement to mark the seventh anniversary of the reunification of Germany.

German-Jordanian

cooperation in the past has led to greater understanding between the governments and the peoples of the two countries, providing a further stimulus for progressive relations, he stated.

Mr. Mende said the German government endorsed financial assistance to Jordan for 1997, despite the constraints on the fiscal budget, which reduced the total amount of German assistance by 10 per cent.

Under the 1997 aid programme, Germany increased its aid to Jordan by DM62 million (approximately JD24.8



Peter Mende

million), mainly benefiting water and agricultural projects, the ambassador said, adding that Germany also cancelled DM40 million (JD16 million) of Jordanian debts.

The ambassador urged all parties involved in the Middle East peace process to intensify their efforts to find solutions to the present problems impeding peace efforts.

Germany will continue to extend its full support for the peace process and to finance regional projects that would guarantee a comprehensive peace, he said.

Use of technology to determine fetus' sex questioned by Irbid study

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The use of modern technology allowing parental knowledge of the sex of a fetus has been brought into question by a study conducted in Irbid by Salah Mawajdeh and Lu'ay Khuza'i.

The study wanted to determine if parental knowledge of the fetus' sex had any effect on the utilisation of maternal health services. For this purpose, approximately 378 women living in Irbid were questioned on the first day after delivery.

"We studied three groups of women, those who knew they were carrying boys, those who were carrying girls, and those who did not know the sex of the fetus," said Dr. Mawajdeh, a specialist in health policy and management at the University of Science and

Technology. He told the Jordan Times that two main variables were chosen for this analysis. The first variable concerned the type of hospital selected, private or public, in which to deliver, while the second factor was the number of visits made by a pregnant woman to her gynaecologist.

"We wanted to know if knowledge of the sex of the fetus affected the type of hospital a woman delivered in and if her visits to the doctor increased or decreased according to the sex of the baby," Dr. Mawajdeh said.

Results indicated that women carrying males delivered in private hospitals, women carrying females delivered in both types of hospitals, but the third group of women tended to deliver at home, he explained. This pattern did not hold for the second vari-

able, concerning the frequency of visits to maternal health services. Dr. Mawajdeh remarked that women pregnant with females visited their physicians more often than those who carried boys.

He stated that women pregnant with baby girls made repeated visits to their physicians, hoping that with each visit the ultrasound would indicate a different sex.

According to Dr. Mawajdeh, the study targeted the proper use of technology.

"Ultrasound was not designed to identify the sex of the fetus," he said, adding that "ultrasound has many uses, predominantly to check on fetal health."

He emphasised that people working in the health sector should be made aware of the abuse of this technology, and advocated more regional research on the impact of

technology and how it is being employed for purposes other than those for which they were invented.

Knowledge of the fetus' sex, Dr. Mawajdeh stressed, is a by-product of ultrasound technology, but because of its dramatic impact on the attitudes of parents, which Dr. Mawajdeh said could be as severe as abortion, the use of the ultrasound has been banned in some countries, such as China.

Dr. Mawajdeh remarked that some gynaecologists have made it their policy not to inform women of the sex of their fetus.

"But some doctors are pressured: some yield, while others refuse to tell," he concluded that it is up to the physician to decide on the appropriate course of action.

Jordanian, German surgeons to convene conference in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — German and Jordanian surgeons are due to gather in Amman Oct. 15 for a three-day meeting to discuss a wide range of medical topics, with the focus on internal surgery, neurosurgery, and plastic surgery, among other relevant topics.

Salim Daradkeh, chairman of the scientific committee preparing for the conference, Saturday said delegates from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt,

France, and the U.K., in addition to Jordan and Germany, will review 50 working papers on general surgery.

The conference, sponsored by the Jordanian-German Society of Surgeons and the Jordan Medical Association, is to be preceded by a two-day preparatory workshop, beginning Oct. 11, according to Dr. Daradkeh.

The conference aims at orienting specialists on the latest developments in sur-

gical operations, results of scientific research pertaining to surgery, and enabling the Arab and foreign surgeons to exchange expertise and ideas on modern trends in surgery, he said.

A supplementary exhibition of medical equipment and drugs used in surgery will be held in addition to the main events, he added.

The delegates will later be taken on a tour of Jordan's tourist and archaeological sites, he said.

NCP 'exploring' possibility of adding candidates to ticket — spokesperson

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The National Constitutional Party (NCP) Executive Committee is exploring the possibility of extending its 12-person ticket, Hakim Kheir, the party's spokesperson, told the Jordan Times.

The party announced a preliminary ticket last week, but said the list was still "open" and other candidacies would have been taken into consideration before the start of candidates' official registration, set by the Ministry of Interior for Oct. 10.

In addition to the official candidates, the NCP also said it will field a number of "stealth candidates," who will receive the party's indirect support, but whose names will remain secret until after the elections are concluded.

According to Mr. Kheir, the NCP Executive Committee yesterday also examined the phenomenon of en masse res-

ignations that is currently hitting the party.

Reportedly, another 15 members from the NCP Aqaba branch resigned during the weekend, bringing the total of resignees to nearly a hundred in the past few weeks.

All resignation letters bore the same slogan, which read: "Yes to democracy. Yes to national unity. No to individualism and tyranny within the party."

Minimising the matter, Mr. Kheir said that many of the names in the most recent resignation letters were "redundant" and were just repetitions of name lists included in previous communications from the defectors.

Mr. Kheir also stressed that "for each resignation letter that [the NCP] receives, there are 20 newcomers who register."

Among the resignees stands out the name of Akif Fayed, former chairman of the steering committee of the party, who cited "authoritari-

an and unilateral decisions taken by the leadership, lack of consultation in decision-making, in addition to repeated violations of the party's statute," as the reasons behind his decision.

NCP Secretary General Abdul Hadi Majali responded to the wave of criticisms by saying that the resignations helped the party's "health," purging it from those who were pursuing "their personal interests."

Mr. Fayed replied to Mr. Majali in a strongly-worded letter published yesterday in an Arabic daily, urging him to re-examine and review his leadership of the party.

Meanwhile, another contender for the Karak district, in which Mr. Majali is running in the Nov. 4 elections, emerged yesterday.

Mr. Majali will have to defend his seat against Khaled Tarawneh, a retired major general and former head of civil defence.

WHAT'S GOING ON	
PIANO RECITAL	
* Musical performance by the National Music Conservatory Band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.	
PLAY	
* Children's play "Shahrou and Traffic Rules" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).	
EXHIBITIONS	
* Japanese pottery exhibition by Soei Obiya at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 9.	
* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Ribhan Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 658896/7), until Oct. 30.	
* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterranean" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).	
* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdon, until Oct. 20.	

Bulgaria says Balkan role will help it join NATO

SOFIA (R) — President Petar Stoyanov said Saturday Bulgaria played a vital stabilising role in the turbulent Balkans and he was confident that it would join NATO.

"Bulgaria gave categorical proof that it can be a stabilising factor in the Balkans during the crisis in Yugoslavia," Mr. Stoyanov told the opening session of the General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA).

He underlined Bulgaria's strategic geographical location at the centre of the Balkans and said that together with Romania, Greece and Turkey it could strengthen NATO's southern flank.

Bulgaria's good relations with its neighbours,

including Turkey and Greece, as well as a lack of internal ethnic problems, were further reasons why it should secure a place in the alliance.

At its summit in Madrid in July, NATO invited the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to join the alliance in 1999 and singled out Romania and Slovenia as prime candidates for future admission.

The United States announced a new commitment to the Balkan region Friday, saying southeast Europe would be a major foreign policy priority following the Madrid summit.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Europe Mark Grossman said the United

States was committed to enhancing democracy and stability in southeast Europe and the region's integration into the European mainstream.

Bulgaria, which made a clear statement of its desire to join NATO only in February, is implementing military reforms and says it will meet the membership criteria by the time the alliance meets to review expansion in 1999.

Bulgaria plans to reduce its army to 65,000 troops from around 95,000 now within a year and gradually transform it from an army of conscripts into a professional force, though advertisements for a first 120 professional posts have drawn only a handful of applications.



Greek Defence Minister Apostolos Tsahatzopoulos (right) speaks to the Turkish deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Ismet Sezgin (left) during the opening session of the General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) in Sofia. President Petar Stoyanov said Saturday Bulgaria played a vital stabilising role in the turbulent Balkans and he was confident that it would join NATO (Reuters photo)

India says Pakistan pledges to cooperate on border

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said Saturday that Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had assured him Islamabad would cooperate with India to stop border clashes in Kashmir.

The United News of India (UNI) quoted Mr. Gujral as saying: "Last night Mr. Nawaz Sharif telephoned me to convey that he had asked his army to get in touch with our army to see that the situation that has emerged in the past few days is closed."

Mr. Gujral was speaking to reporters before leaving on an eight-day tour of Uganda, South Africa and Egypt.

UNI quoted an official spokesman as saying that

during their conversation on a telephone hotline late Friday, Mr. Sharif agreed with Mr. Gujral that the firing between the Indian and Pakistani troops at the Himalayan border should stop.

The spokesman said the Pakistani prime minister had stated that suitable instructions in this regard had been issued by him to his military authorities.

Mr. Sharif said the director general of military operations of the two countries could now follow up and take appropriate corrective action. Mr. Gujral told Mr. Sharif that similar instructions had been given to the Indian military authorities.

India said this week 18 civilians died in cross-border

firing in the disputed Kashmir Valley. More than 40 died in two days of firing on both sides of the border.

On Thursday, Mr. Gujral and Mr. Sharif spoke on the hotline to discuss the outbreak of artillery firing.

Saturday's discussion was apparently the third time Mr. Gujral and Mr. Sharif had used the hotline since they opened the direct telephone link in June.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 over Kashmir and regularly trade fire across the tense 720 kilometres border.

Both countries claim all of Kashmir, two-thirds of which is ruled by India and the rest by Pakistan.

One dead in Florida encephalitis outbreak

TAMPA, Florida. (AFP) — An outbreak of mosquito-borne Saint Louis encephalitis has killed one person and placed most of central Florida under medical alert, health officials reported.

A 68-year-old man from the Tampa area became the first victim of the disease since 1990, officials said.

To fight the outbreak authorities have placed 27 of the state's 67 counties, mostly in central Florida, under medical alert.

The Orlando area, where Disney World and Universal Studios Florida are located, are included in the medical alert area, along with swank Palm Beach county and most of the Tampa Bay area.

However Dade county — where Miami is located — and nearby Broward county in South Florida are not.

Mosquitoes pick up the virus when they bite wild birds, then transmit it by biting humans.

Symptoms include fever, headache, stiff neck, dizziness, and brain swelling, but appear only within four to 21 days after the mosquito bite.

The disease is a problem every year when mosquito populations are highest in the late summer and early fall.

Pam Potter-Ricco, spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Health, said that infants and the elderly are most at risk from the disease.

Florida is one of the most popular retirement areas in the United States, and the state has a large elderly population.

"We don't want people to panic," Ms. Potter-Ricco said. "Just be cautious."

To thwart the insects authorities are asking people to wear long pants and long sleeve shirts, and to cover their skin with insect repellent.

The mosquitoes carrying the disease are most active in the evening and early morning. This season's outbreak is minor when compared to 1990, when 11 people died of the disease and 223 became sick.

By the first week in October of that year, 80 people were already sick, officials said. Currently three more cases have been reported, all senior citizens, officials said. At least one of them remains hospitalised.

Austrian minister confirms arrested man is letter-bomb suspect

VIENNA (AFP) — An engineer arrested earlier this week is being investigated on suspicion of involvement in a letter-bomb campaign in Austria and Germany, Interior Minister Karl Schloegl confirmed Saturday.

He told a press conference a formal arrest warrant would be issued against Franz Fuchs, who is already under police guard in a hospital in Graz after losing both his hands and one forearm in an explosion in his car during a police check.

Police found five home-made bombs when they searched the 48-year-old suspect's home two days after he was admitted to hospital.

Mr. Schloegl said on television Friday that the suspect was "a very, very dangerous man."

"He is either linked to those behind the letter-

bombs, or was one of the perpetrators himself, or he was someone who was about to mount attacks," he said.

Nine people were injured, including Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk, when a wave of letter bombings hit Austria and Germany between December 1993 and December 1996.

The bombings targeted figures known for working on behalf of immigrants.

In a case in February 1995 which police are linking to the letter-bombs, four gypsies were killed by a bomb hidden in a pipe near anti-gypsy graffiti in the southern town of Oberwart.

A suspect identified as Gerhard P. was arrested on June 4 on suspicion of sending letters to Austrian weeklies claiming responsibility for two letter bombs in 1996, but was released 12 days later for lack of evidence.

Russians identify 2 Mir leaks caused by June crash

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian space officials said Saturday they had located two holes punched in the Mir space station during a collision with a cargo ship last June.

One hole was located near the mounting for one of the solar panels in the Spektr science module, the other between the Priroda module and the Soyuz escape capsule, deputy flight director Viktor Blagov was quoted as saying by ITAR-TASS news agency.

The punctures caused by the June 25 collision caused a pressure leak in Spektr, making the module a no-go area.

The only time cosmonauts have entered the capsule since was when Mir commander Anatoly Solovoyov and engineer Pavel Vinogradov donned space suits in a bid to reconnect severed power cables and identify the leak.

The damage, which had escaped detection so far, was found Friday when the Mir crew pumped air into Spektr while U.S. astronauts took high-definition photographs from the nearby space shuttle Atlantis.

Mr. Blagov also said the cosmonauts will make a space walk on Oct. 20 to try and repair the damaged solar battery on Spektr.

Ground control could not be immediately reached for confirmation. Mir and Atlantis moved apart at 1728 GMT Friday, some 90 minutes later than originally scheduled to give Mir's crew time to test technical procedures before the space station began flying on its own.

Atlantis was to complete its nine-day, 20-hour and 24-minute mission Sunday, landing at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 6:56 p.m. (2256 GMT).

Atlantis delivered a vital needed new central computer to Mir and brought U.S. astronaut David Wolf to replace British-born NASA astronaut Michael Foale.

The computer controls Mir's gyroscopes which keep the station's solar panels orientated towards the sun during its orbit, ensuring full power.

The previous computer crashed on several occasions over the last few months, forcing the crew to make emergency repairs and even consider the possibility of evacuating the 11-year-old space craft.

A statement from ground control said the cosmonauts were resting Saturday and Sunday and that the station was orbiting on its normal automatic system.

A Progress M-36 cargo ship will be launched Sunday at 1508 GMT and will dock with Mir Tuesday at 1542 GMT, the statement said.

Heavy rain threatens work in Italy's quake-hit zone

ROME (AFP) — Heavy rain threatens to hamper work in the quake-hit zone of central Italy where 40,000 people are still homeless one week after a major tremble hit the region. Italian authorities said Saturday.

Heavy and persistent rain is expected from Tuesday in the Umbria region where last week's quakes killed four people and damaged the historic basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi.

Two powerful follow-up jolts Friday caused further material damage. A 75-year-old woman who had moved into a tent following the quakes died of a heart attack while 20 people were injured, Italian officials announced.

Over night, 47 light quakes were recorded in the region. The head of the Italian Geophysics Institute, Enzo Boschi, said "the shocks could continue for

weeks, perhaps a month." Celebrations marking the holy day of Italy's patron saint, Saint Francis, were to have taken place in the basilica Saturday but will now take place in front of the church, officials said.

The mountainous region between Umbria and the marches is considered among Italy's richest in art and culture, and the government estimated that 1,120 important monuments have been affected by the earthquakes.

But the damage to the basilica of Saint Francis has attracted the most international attention, with the European Union pledging \$111,000 in emergency aid and Courtney Kennedy, niece of assassinated U.S. President John F. Kennedy, visiting the church Thursday and promising to launch a U.S. appeal for funds.

H. Kong politicians slam policing of demonstrations

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong pro-democracy politicians Saturday accused police of becoming increasingly heavy-handed and aggressive against demonstrators since the territory was handed back to China.

"We've seen an escalation of police power or the exercise of police power, in our view, an abuse of police power in recent demonstrations," Harold Ko, spokesman for the Frontier Political Group, told reporters.

Police have outnumbered protesters at a number of pro-democracy rallies in recent weeks, blocking their path to keep them out of areas where protests are banned.

"The police surrounded the demonstrators before they protested, before they even reached the protest zone," said Mr. James To, spokesman for the Popular Democratic Party.

"We want to know why there is such a change, what has prompted this apparent change in the police way of handling demonstrations. I mean, use of more force, more violence, more restrictive demonstration areas and such things," he said.

Mr. Ko was speaking after a meeting with secretary for Security Peter Lai, but said Mr. Lai had been unable to give an explanation.

A government spokesman said there had been no change in policy since China took Hong Kong back from Britain on July 1.

"There is no change in the government's policy in handling demonstrations," he said in a statement. "The police will always exercise maximum restraint and use minimum force only when absolutely necessary."

"Peaceful demonstrations have remained pretty much a way of life after July 1 and Hong Kong People's freedom of expression and assembly have not been curtailed in any way."

He noted some 150 demonstrations had been held since the handover and that the majority of public processions and meetings had been lawful and peaceful.

"Hong Kong is a free and open society where freedom of expression and assembly are guaranteed by law, but the community would expect people to express their rights in an orderly, peaceful and lawful manner," he said.

The Novotel survey found that while male guests usually left their rooms spick and span, a hotel stay seemed to be their opportunity to break out of the shackles, drink the mini-bar dry, make a lot of noise and watch skin flicks," the paper said.

Men were more likely to be found standing sheepishly in a hotel corridor because they were locked out. Sleeping outside the room was also common because the key would not go in the lock after a few drinks," it said.

Women generally stuffed more into their bags when they went on holiday and often struggled to keep clothes and make-up under control in their hotel rooms.

One hotel said "women also enjoyed a break away from cleaning and were less likely to clean up after themselves."

Australia politician suicide bid may end travel row

CANBERRA (R) — An Australian politician's shocking suicide attempt could end a bitter travel allowance abuse scandal which has rocked both sides of politics, politicians and analysts said Saturday.

Lahore opposition finance spokesman Nick Sherry, the target of a hostile government attack over his travel claims, was rushed to a Canberra hospital Friday after slashing his wrists in a bid to end his life.

"I can't see that it would make any difference, (but) it might actually cause them all to shut up suddenly," said Australian National University politics lecturer Scott Bennett when asked if the suicide attempt would harm the government.

"They could well suddenly decide it was in everyone's best interests not to say any more."

Both sides of Australian politics have been embroiled in the bitter row over wrongly claimed travel expenses that has already forced out three government ministers and two of the prime minister's senior advisers.

In retaliation, the liberal-national government targeted Mr. Sherry for claiming Australian dollars 46,000 (\$33,000) in travel expenses while staying with his mother, but did not suggest he had broken the loose rules governing the tax-free allowances.

A fellow Tasmanian senator, independent Brian Harradine, said Mr. Sherry's action proved it was time for reconciliation in parliament.

"I would hope that the leaders of the major parties, (opposition leader) Kim Beazley and (Prime Minister) John Howard... can get together and consider the best way of dealing with what we've heard in the last few weeks," Mr. Harradine said.

Australian Democrats Senator Natasha Stott



Nick Sherry

Despoja said she hoped Mr. Sherry's suicide bid would prompt a change in parliamentary behaviour.

"It's time certainly to modify and adapt our behaviour and I wish that had happened a long time ago," she said.

"Maybe this might help make the difference." A spokesman for Mr. Beazley said Mr. Sherry, 41, was making satisfactory progress and should be out of hospital in a few days, although he faced a long recovery.

"He's pretty good apparently. He's had visitors, he's made phone calls," the spokesman told Reuters.

"He's still being examined by doctors of all persuasions, but it looks as though he'll make a full recovery."

Asked about Mr. Sherry's state of mind, the spokesman said: "It's hard to tell. Psychiatrists have been with him today to ascertain that, but he has

been talking lucidly and seems okay."

In a suicide note to the domestic Australian Associated Press news agency, Mr. Sherry said he was too ashamed to return to his small home state of Tasmania after parliament finished.

"My name is now mud," Mr. Sherry said in the note. "Everything ... I stood publicly for ... is now being destroyed. So I am taking the appropriate course of action."

Australian Prime Minister John Howard, who said he was shocked to hear of Mr. Sherry's action, will announce his new ministry Sunday morning.

He is replacing vacancies left by Transport Minister John Sharp, Administrative Services Minister David Jull and Science Minister Peter McGauran who all resigned last week over wrongly claimed travel allowances.

Indonesia cla
tracks down

Indonesia pilo
to Medan thre



Princess Cristina and her father King of Spain Juan Carlos greet a cheering crowd outside the Barcelona cathedral as they arrive for Cristina's wedding ceremonies (AFP photo)

Spain's Princess Cristina weds Basque sportsman

BARCELONA (R) — Spain's Princess Cristina married Olympic handball star Inaki Urdangarin Saturday in a majestic Gothic cathedral filled with royalty from around the world.

Princess Cristina, the younger daughter of King Juan Carlos and third in line to the throne, took her wedding vows in a glittering ceremony accompanied by the music of Mozart and Handel and witnessed live by up to one billion television viewers worldwide.

Television cameras perched high above the altar focused on the 32-year-old princess, dressed in an elegant, flowing silk gown, as she knelt next to her groom from Spain's northeastern Basque country.

Cheering crowds packed the cobblestone streets outside the 700-year-old cathedral for a glimpse of the couple, and tens of thousands more lined the flag-draped route of the procession.

Monarchs from across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia converged on Barcelona for the wedding, the first major gathering of the world's royalty since the funeral of Britain's Princess Diana last month in London.

Almost every major royal household was represented. Among the 1,500 guests were Monaco's Prince Rainier, Queen Noor and the monarchs of Sweden and Norway. Britain's Prince Edward stood in for his eldest brother Prince Charles, heir to the throne, who was still in mourning for Diana, his ex-wife.

Arriving at the cathedral in a black limousine, Princess Cristina walked up the red carpet on her father's arm while royal lancers stood at attention. All of Spain came to a standstill to watch the pageantry unfold.

The bride and groom smiled warmly at each other as they took their vows and exchanged rings. Scores of people had camped out overnight outside the cathedral, singing and dancing until dawn.

"I'm here because of my love of the royal family," Barcelona resident Lonia Alvarez said.

The Roman Catholic ceremony was carefully designed to show off the proud position the restored Bourbon monarchy has carved out for itself in modern Spain.

Indonesia claims fires receding, cracks down on timber firms

JAKARTA (AFP) — The Indonesian government said forest fires were receding across Indonesia Saturday as it mounted a crack-down on big firms deemed responsible for the infernos which blanketed Southeast Asia in toxic smog.

"According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) satellite imaging, the number of fire spots have gone down," Forestry Minister Jamaluddin Suryadikusuma said, without providing specific figures.

Mr. Jamaluddin was quoted by the official Antara news agency as saying the haze had eased over parts of Kalimantan province on the Indonesian half of Borneo Island, and portions of Sumatra.

Fifty-one timber companies operating in the western Indonesian province of Riau, one of the areas worst hit by widespread fires, have denied that they set forests there ablaze, a report said Saturday.

The official Antara news agency said at least 51 of 83 Riau companies suspected of starting forest fires have issued denials.

Despite the better news about the fires, sources with access to satellite photos told AFP last week that the fires were expected to spread. Other experts said they would be burning for a long time as the ground contains flammable lignite and peat.

Indonesian officials have said the fires have burned at least 70,000 hectares of forests and plantation while the sources with access to satellite photos have said the fires have affected at least 600,000 to 800,000 hectares.

Borneo and Sumatra are the two large islands where the fires began last May. The resulting haze has spread to five other countries and was being cited as a possible cause for a Garuda Airbus crash and two ship collisions which killed a total of 272 people. It is also causing a massive rise in respiratory problems in southeast Asia.

Antara said Malaysian firefighters sent to Indonesia have put out 29 hot spots in three provinces after 11 days at work.

However, thick, acrid smoke still blanketed the province of Central Kalimantan, the southern part of West Kalimantan, and South Kalimantan, as well as South Sumatra, Jamaluddin said.

More than a thousand Malaysian firefighters are now working on Borneo, split between the two countries, and some would also be sent to South Sumatra, where visibility because of the smoke was down to around 10 metres, Antara said.

Rains which have begun to fall in several areas of Sumatra and Kalimantan and other provinces and are believed to have helped clear the haze and put down some of the fires.

The number of fires could also have fallen because companies were now afraid to use fire for land clearing since the government threatened sanctions.

Mr. Jamaluddin on Friday announced the revocation of 151 timber utilisation permits held by 29 forestry companies, including four owned by the government and at least one controlled by timber tycoon Mohammad "Bob" Hasan, a close ally of Indonesian President Suharto.

Agriculture Minister Syarifuddin Baharsyah Friday summoned 14 companies and warned them they faced sanctions because of the fires, the Indonesian Observer newspaper said.

The meteorology office in Jakarta has said Indonesia is entering a transition period leading from the dry season to the wet, and has forecast rains to fall shortly in several Indonesian regions.

The office also said that a shift in wind pattern was now dragging the smoke towards the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea, easing the impact on neighbouring Malaysia and Singapore.

The thick haze has also covered the sky over Malaysia and Singapore, causing serious air traffic disruption and health concerns there.

Singapore has instituted safety measures to cope with reduced visibility in its port and surrounding waters due to the smoky haze in the region, maritime officials said Saturday.

Small boats and pleasure crafts without navigational aids such as radars have been advised not to operate in conditions of reduced visibility, and to use lights and sound their horns to warn other vessels of their presence, the MPA statement added.

Thailand, also affected by the smog, will send six experts to Indonesia next week to evaluate what help can be given to fight the raging forest fires that have left much of Southeast Asia engulfed in smog.

Malaysians help put out 29 Indonesian fires

Indonesian fires

JAKARTA (R) — Malaysian fire-fighters battling alongside Indonesian military and local residents have extinguished 29 major bush fires on the island of Sumatra, the official Antara news agency said Saturday.

It said the fires, which showed up as hot spots in satellite images of the region, were extinguished in the provinces of Riau, Jambi and South Sumatra.

The report quoted Malaysian team spokesman Jaafar Sidek as saying the fire-fighters allocated to Riau province would now be shifted to Jambi and South Sumatra after extinguishing a number of fires.

Embassy officials in Jakarta said the Malaysian fire-fighters were due to be relieved by a fresh contingent next week after 14 days' duty in Indonesia. They had been working around the clock battling blazes along a 1,000 kilometres stretch from Riau in the north of Sumatra to Lampung in the south.

Rain from the late monsoon has fallen on the northern tip of Sumatra Island and officials are hoping widespread drought, which has aggravated fire-fighting efforts, will break soon.

Indonesia has called the fires a national disaster. More than 200 Malaysian fire-fighters in Riau were part of a group of 1,450 who arrived on Sept. 24. A choking smog from the fires has blanketed neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia, and parts of Thailand and the Philippines. It has raised health fears and been blamed in fatal accidents.

Antara reported the death toll from a collision of two boats Wednesday on the smog-bound Musi River in south Sumatra rose to nine after four more bodies of missing students were found.

Police said 39 other students were saved after their boat hit a freighter when visibility on the river was down to only 15 metres.

Haze from the fires, which are also burning in Kalimantan on Borneo Island, was seen as the cause of the collision on Sept. 26 of two ships in the Malacca strait separating Sumatra from peninsular Malaysia.

Earlier that day, the pilot of a Garuda Indonesia Airbus also reported poor visibility en route to Sumatra's northern city of Medan from Jakarta before the plane crashed into a hillside killing all 234 on board.

Indonesia's fire coordinating post at the Environment Ministry said Saturday its satellite data showed only four hot spots, thought to be fires, in Kalimantan and three in Sumatra.

The data showed six key regional airports closed at 0400 GMT in Jambi, Pekanbaru, Padang, Palembang, Samarinda and Palangkaraya because of smoke haze.

Indonesia Friday revoked logging licences of 29 timber firms implicated in fires responsible for South East Asia's worst smog crisis.

French nuclear programme denies it employed children

PAPEETE (AFP) — France's Nuclear Research Centre here denied Saturday it had employed children at nuclear test sites in the Pacific following a survey by an anti-nuclear group which said children, some aged 10 or under, had worked at the sites.

Officials of the centre said in a statement it had "never employed teenagers, let alone children" at France's nuclear test sites at Mururoa and Fangarua atolls in the South Pacific. France tested a total of 181 nuclear bombs on the atolls from 1966 until the testing programme was halted last year.

In a survey released Friday in Geneva and Papeete, the Ecumenical Council of Churches said hundreds of Polynesian children, including some aged under 10, worked on French nuclear test sites in the Pacific.

The survey, by the Tahitian anti-nuclear lobby group Hiti Tau, the Evangelical Church of Polynesia and two Dutch sociologists, said around 10 per cent of the 10,000 to 15,000 people believed to have worked on the test sites were under 18.

Some six per cent said they were under 16 when they started work, while a much smaller number, 0.3 per cent, claimed to have been under 10 and to have been taken on illegally.

The study of 737 people who had worked at the sites also said that the vast majority of workers had no confidence in their treatment by the French health system, and wanted new research into the causes of cancer and other illnesses associated with radiation.

The Nuclear Research Centre, however, said medical observation of all civilian and military employees was carried out "in the best conditions and conforming with French legislation which is among the most rigorous in the world."

Paul Ronciere, high commissioner in French Polynesia, said the study had a "sociological character" and could not make conclusions about the medical coverage provided by the centre.

He also said that during the 30 years nuclear tests were conducted, "no union or religious official had even once said during this period that teenagers or children were employed on the sites."

The survey released Friday said more than 40 per cent of the test site workers questioned said they worked in areas likely to have been contaminated, notably between 1966 and 1974 when France conducted a series of tests in the atmosphere.

The nuclear centre responded by saying the atmospheric tests were conducted with "the highest degree of security" and that epidemiological studies "found no negative effect on the health of personnel or the population."

But the research group said there had been several cases of severe irradiation as well as a rise in toxic poisoning, miscarriages, cancer and other illnesses, and called for a comparative study into cancer in the region.

Heavy weapons fire in northwest Rwanda

KIGALI (AFP) — Heavy weapons fire resounded Saturday in the region around Gisenyi, northwest Rwanda, U.N. officials and aid workers said, as civilians fled reporting fighting between the Tutsi-dominated army and Hutu insurgents.

Aid workers based in Goma, just across the border from Gisenyi in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, said artillery fire, probably mortars, heard sporadically throughout the week had intensified early Saturday.

Hundreds of refugees have fled the fighting, aid workers said.

"The atmosphere is rather strained in Goma, principally because of the music we are bearing from across the border," said one U.N. official.

Another foreign source in the capital Kigali said fighting in the town had pitted members of the mainly Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) against Hutu insurgents, members of a Hutu militia, the Interahamwe, and soldiers from the former Rwandan army.

The militia and former army were ousted by the RPA after unleashing the 1994 genocide in which between half a million and 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

The Hutu insurgents have since kept up attacks on Tutsis in Rwanda.

And the foreign source in Kigali said: "Six Tutsis were killed early in the week and what is happening now is reprisal attacks."

The source said many civilians had fled the fighting. On Friday, the U.N. refugee agency said in Geneva that hundreds of Hutus had fled Rwanda for the Democratic Republic of Congo since the fighting began.

On Friday evening, Goma closed the border and announced it was to expel the Rwandan refugees who had entered the town.

"We are very worried about the implications of this news for the Rwandan refugees who have started to cross the border in the past few days to flee fighting in western Rwanda," the UNHCR said Friday.

No official sources in Kigali could confirm the reports Saturday.

Indonesia pilots who refuse to fly to Medan threatened with sack

JAKARTA (AFP) — The government warned it would fire pilots who refuse to fly certain routes over safety concerns, a report said Saturday as Britain joined the search for black boxes expected to shed light on Indonesia's worst air disaster.

"Pilots who go on strike and refuse to fly will incur dismissal," the Terbit Evening daily quoted the director general for Air Transport, Zainudin Sikudo as saying.

The warning was issued as the search for flight recorders of the Garuda Indonesia Airbus crash in the Western island of Sumatra entered its second week.

The A300-B4 on a domestic flight from Jakarta plunged into a smog-shrouded ravine on Sept. 26 as it approached Polonia Airport in Medan.

Shadrach Nababan, a pilot who heads the Garuda Indonesia Communication Forum was quoted by Terbit Friday as saying some pilots were pressing for a strike, or "at least to refuse to fly to Medan" due to concerns on the quality of air traffic services there.

The national airline is owned by the Indonesian government. Britain has sent equipment to Indonesia to speed up the search for the cockpit voice and flight data recorders which are expected to shed light on the Garuda crash, the Bisnis Indonesia daily reported Saturday.

The head of the government commission investigating the crash, Utoyo Diran, requested Britain's Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) to send the equipment to speed up the search, which entered its second week without result in a remote muddy paddy field near Medan, it said.

The equipment, described only as a detector, was due to arrive in Jakarta Saturday, said Captain M. Santoso, Diran's deputy.

Garuda's Medan office declined to say when the detector was expected to arrive there.

"Search teams have not found the black boxes yet," said Aziz of the North Sumatra Search and Rescue Agency late Saturday afternoon.

"The weather was still hazy but much better than in the past few days," said First Sergeant Bangun, a police officer based near the crash site.

Large areas of South East Asia have been blanketed for weeks in thick smog which has been blamed on forest fires in Sumatra and on Borneo Island.

The pilot of the doomed flight reportedly told air traffic controllers he was encountering visibility problems because of the haze moments before the crash.

Speculation about the cause of the accident has been further heightened by the appearance of what is purported to be a transcript of the final conversation between the pilot and an air traffic controller which indicated he misunderstood a direction and turned the wrong way on the approach to Medan.

Hundreds of soldiers, backed by civilians and police have been combing the site for eight days with the assistance of officials from Airbus Industrie, the manufacturer of the plane.

U.S. man charged with murder describes time as PoW

LONG BEACH (R) — A veteran of the World War II who says he killed his son-in-law because he had flashbacks to a Japanese prison camp broke down in tears Friday as he testified to the horrors of his imprisonment.

Richard Keech, 77, said he suffered daily beatings, near-starvation and living conditions so bad that he had even tried to get himself killed while confined as a prisoner of war near Manila in the Philippines.

Mr. Keech, who was held captive for 40 months after a battle on the island of Corregidor in Manila Bay, says that post-traumatic stress disorder from that experience caused him to shoot and kill Nicholas Candy.

Prosecutors argue that Mr. Keech's intermittent half-century ago was irrelevant to the May 21, 1996 shooting, which came after a dispute between Candy and Mr. Keech's daughter, Nancy, over custody of their infant son.

Mr. Keech is on trial for murder in the death of Candy — a British citizen who met Mr. Keech's daughter while both were helping build the Euro-Disney theme park in France.

In opening arguments last week, Defence Attorney Edward George said that during the fateful argument with Candy, Mr. Keech began having flashbacks to his days in the prison camp, reliving beatings he had suffered at the hands of his captors and torture he had witnessed.

Mr. George said Mr. Keech had stepped into the custody dispute over fear for his daughter's safety and had purchased a gun because he considered Candy to be hot-tempered and dangerous.

As Mr. Keech pulled out the gun and fired, Mr. George said, he "thought back to the time he was being beaten 52 years before in POW camps, and thought he was about to be beaten to death."

Prosecutors say the defense is irrelevant, and that Mr. Keech committed murder when he shot Candy five times — four of them while Candy was unconscious on the ground.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1971
مجلس التحرير يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية من مؤسسة الصحافة الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6843111, 696634
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

With friends like these ...

CANADA HAS confirmed what everybody must have concluded all along, that Israel was behind the attempt in Amman on the life of Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al. Our authorities must have made the same determination shortly after the arrest of the two suspects who appeared to have administered some secret chemicals on the Hamas leader last week even though the government opted to keep a lid of secrecy over the details of the operation till now.

Ottawa has acted swiftly by withdrawing its top diplomat in Israel. It goes without saying that Canada has every reason to recall its ambassador in Tel Aviv and to entertain taking other measures, diplomatic or otherwise, against the Jewish state despite efforts by Israeli prime minister to play down the row between the two countries over the incident. The Canadian authorities must be especially concerned about a possible widespread use of forged Canadian passports by Israeli secret agencies as indeed confirmed by several quarters including former Israeli Mossad agents.

It seems that Israel views Canada as a docile nation that would react with restraint at worst over the exploitation of Canadian passports' use for Israeli covert activities. No wonder the Canadian foreign minister, Lloyd Axworthy, promised to get to the bottom of forging of legal Canadian documents, especially by presumably a friendly country.

For our part, the Jordanian security establishment should be called upon to get to the bottom of the attempt on the life of Mr. Misha'al with a view to establish the truth behind reports that the Israelis involved used local agents to carry out their operation. It would be sad indeed if the Mossad succeeded in recruiting agents from within Jordan to act as accomplices for their criminal action. It is bad enough that the Israeli government has threatened our national security and stability by sending its own agents to our country, but to have acted in collusion with Jordanians would be something that requires immediate response from our authorities.

Sad as it is that Israel has exploited the nationality and documentations of a friendly country, it is even sadder that the Netanyahu government exploited the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and used it as a window of opportunity to strike on Jordanian soil. This is where we have to draw a line and make Netanyahu and Co. understand in no uncertain terms that peace is one thing and the use of Jordan as a base for carrying out acts of espionage and settling old scores with any party is something diametrically opposed to it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Arab Al Yawm's Taher Adwan commented Saturday that now that it has been established that there was no deal between Israel and Jordan over the release of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and that the two Mossad agents involved in the attack on Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al are still in custody and under interrogation by the Jordanian authorities, one can expect to see Jordan taking drastic steps to prevent a recurrence of such dangerous incidents. Adwan said the order given to the Mossad agents to commit the terrorist attack in Amman should be met with the appropriate response because the Israeli government has, through this adventure, proved its total disregard for Jordan's sovereignty and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Through this rash and irresponsible act, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has proved that his government is one that is inclined to carry out adventures not only against the Palestinians but also against Lebanon where a recent assault was aborted, and finally in Amman where the Mossad act was exposed to the whole world, said the writer. He said the attack on Misha'al in Amman was an outrageous act and an infringement on the Kingdom's national security. Adwan said Jordan has to take measures to make it clear to the Jewish state that it by no means can allow its intelligence services to exploit the 1994 peace treaty as a cover for agents to ruin peace and harm neighbourly ties.

Al Dustour's Ali Safadi commended the Jordanian private and public sectors for undertaking practical moves towards bolstering Jordanian-Iranian relations. Safadi said the agreements concluded in Tehran during a visit by a Jordanian delegation last week reflect the desire on the part of Amman and Tehran to strengthen bilateral ties in economic, social and political fields. Bolstering Jordanian-Iranian relations, he said, can open the door for resolving outstanding Iranian-Arab problems such as the relations with Iraq and the Iranian seizure of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates. In addition, Jordan will benefit from economic dealings with Iran which has a vast market, he said. The two countries hold similar views on most of the political issues facing the Middle East region. Safadi said the decision to establish a Jordanian-Iranian business council can certainly promote economic relations but it can also strengthen inter-Islamic relations to counter Israel's on-going attempts to impose its hegemony on the Arab World.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Problems and risks haunt the Palestinian economy

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE PALESTINIAN economy is prevented from growing and taking off because of several obstacles caused by the prolonged Israeli occupation, over and above the lack of reasonable infrastructure.

The worst of these obstacles is the absence of sovereignty, without which there is no national economy. The Palestinian self-rule authority is not allowed to make decisions concerning economic relations with the world. In the age of globalisation, the Palestinian economy is confined to its tiny borders.

In addition, the prevailing climate in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is not conducive to investments. The situation is unstable. Security and certainty are lacking. No one knows what will happen in the short-term, let alone the longer-term. Under such unfavourable circumstances, investors are not expected to risk their capital in the territories.

Conditions worsen from the periodic imposition of tight and extended periods of closure — devastating measures taken by Israel either as a precaution or as collective punishment.

ishment.

So far Israel has not activated the safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza Strip as agreed in the Oslo accords. In many cases trade between the two Palestinian areas must pass through Israeli intermediaries.

Last but not least, the Israeli authorities continue to control all airports, seaports, and border points. Business circles are almost suffocated, and the Palestinian economy is all but isolated except inasmuch as Israel will allow.

Besides these existing problems there is a set of other risks which needs to be handled with utmost care. Among these risks and eventual problems in the making are:

1) Administrative inflation. Jordan arrived at this situation after 75 years of the establishment of the state. Unfortunately, Palestine is about to face the same problem in its very first years. More than 75,000 individuals are currently employed by the Palestinian authorities. Jobs are sometimes offered as favours.

2) There is the temptation to borrow and accumulate external debt. One of few positive points is that the self-

government is not burdened with debt. It should avoid this trap, because to finance development by debt is a prescription for disaster.

3) It should be noticed that the Palestinian public sector is growing fast while the private sector is shrinking. This runs against the worldwide trend of privatisation and smaller governments. Reform in the future will be difficult and costly. It is worth it to preempt the problem as early as possible.

4) There is no overall vision for the Palestinian economy. Every sector has its own plan, and every government division has its own agenda. The minimum coordination effort is not there to bring some harmony to the development effort and economic policies.

5) The situation is further aggravated by the continued dependency on the Israeli economy, which may reach a stage when independence becomes unachievable due to emergence of vested interests.

At this rate, Jerusalem might not be habitable for anyone

By Thomas L. Friedman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

The deal concocted to allow 10 Israeli settlers to remain in a building in the Ras Al Amoud Arab neighbourhood of East Jerusalem is a moral and political fraud (embraced by the Clinton administration) perpetrated by people whose goal is to drive Palestinians out of the city.

This is sad. The issue today is not whether Jerusalem will remain the unified capital of Israel, but whether it will be the habitable capital of Israel. Anyone who has visited Jerusalem lately knows Israel's hold over the city is unchallenged, and I am glad it is.

Jerusalem was never a more open city to all religions than under Israeli rule after 1967. But that is changing. Anyone who has visited Jerusalem lately knows it is increasingly a city of tension precisely because the spirit of openness and compromise is threatened. Palestinians in Jerusalem now live in fear of arbitrary eviction, and secular Israelis feel increasingly alienated by the ultra-Orthodox who now dominate the city council.

Most of all, the city is threatened by its Likud mayor, Ehud Olmert, who

sees Jerusalem as the vehicle he can use to replace his rival, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — by tacitly encouraging Jewish hardliners in Jerusalem to do things that either embarrass the prime minister or force him to move even further to the right, with Mr. Olmert reaping the credit. (It was Mr. Olmert who snuck out and opened the Western Wall tunnel in the dead of night last September, triggering

It's rather ironic that Netanyahu, who grew up in America because his own father quit Israel for a long time, would tolerate a policy that strips Palestinians of their right to live in Jerusalem because they went away from a couple of years.

Israeli-Palestinian clashes that left some 70 people dead).

Why did the Jewish settlers, who are tacitly supported by Mr. Olmert, choose the Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood? Simple. Two years ago, Yasser Arafat's deputy, Abu Mazen, and Shimon Peres' deputy, Yossi Beilin, secret-

ly worked out a possible final settlement between Israelis and Palestinians.

In it, they suggested that the Palestinian village of Abu Dis, which lies just over today's municipal boundaries of Jerusalem, might become the Palestinians' administrative capital and be called Al Quds, the Arabic name for Jerusalem. This would give

Jerusalem, where the Muslim holy sites are located, and Abu Dis. The settlers moved in there to cut off Abu Dis from Jerusalem and make the Abu Mazen-Beilin compromise less attractive or possible.

This comes at a time when Israel has been engaged in a systematic attempt to squeeze Palestinians, and their economy out of Jerusalem.

One of my oldest friends here, Shoshana Sappir, called me two weeks ago in desperation.

Her family is building a new home in Jewish West Jerusalem. They hired as their builder Abdul Rahman (Azziz) Ibrahim Abu Teir, who was born in Jerusalem on Dec. 12, 1962. Last month, the Israeli Ministry of Interior cancelled his Jerusalem identity card (No. 080392244), without which he cannot work or live legally in the city where he was born and where his family has resided for generations. Invoking an old law, the Ministry of Interior says that any Palestinian who has moved the "centre of his life" away from Jerusalem for an extended period will lose his ID card.

Mr. Abu Teir's crime was

that he left to study civil engineering at London's Queen Mary College from 1984 until he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1987. Then he returned to work for his father's construction company, but when business dried up because of the intifada he returned to London to work in construction there, coming back to Jerusalem each summer, always paying municipal taxes on his home while he was away.

After the Oslo peace, he dissolved his business in London and moved back to Jerusalem with his Palestinian wife and five children, to reopen his business. Shoshana chose him as a builder on the recommendation of Israeli architects.

"Azziz is building my house and my country is throwing him out of his," said Shoshana. "It's rather ironic that Netanyahu, who grew up in America because his own father quit Israel for a long time, would tolerate a policy that strips Palestinians of their right to live in Jerusalem because they went away from a couple of years."

Jerusalem today is becoming just another political symbol to exploit. You have Mr. Olmert, the Marion

Barry of Jerusalem, who tries to propel his political career by appealing to the worst, most ethnocentric instincts in the city. (Compared with Mr. Olmert, Bibi Netanyahu is Abe Lincoln).

You have senators and congressmen, like Joe Lieberman, Jon Kyl and Ben Gilman, who demand that the U.S. embassy be moved to Jerusalem, no matter what explosions it might trigger, to exploit the issue for Jewish votes. And you have the American hingo magnate Irving Moskowitz, who bankrolled the thrust into Ras Al Amoud apparently to save his guilt for the fact that he is a super-hawkish Israel supporter who prefers to live in the comfort of Miami rather than actually move to Jerusalem.

When these gentlemen get done exploiting the symbolic Jerusalem for all its worth, they will have sucked all the life out of the living Jerusalem — the Jerusalem where real people, people truly committed to coexistence, like Shoshana and Azziz, are just trying to get through the day in peace.

The New York Times

A final peace must include satisfactory status for refugees

By Donna E. Arz

HOPE FOR a lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict must include a resolution to the question of the status of three to four million Palestinian refugees who live outside of the West Bank and Gaza. But up to now, this critical question has been pushed aside by both sides in the Mideast dispute.

Now that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has travelled to the Middle East, even suggesting that final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians be accelerated, a host of issues that have been on the diplomatic back-burner should now be given greater attention. No amount of suicide bombing must be allowed to postpone the inevitable. One of these heretofore back-burner issues is the future of the Palestinian refugees. Three basic facts demonstrate how paramount this issue is:

— With between three and four million displaced persons out of a total Palestinian population of over 6.3 million, Palestinian refugees are the world's largest concentration of stateless persons.

— Now that we are approaching the 50th anniversary of the 1948 dispersal of Palestinians, they are the world's oldest refugee community.

— Seventy per cent of all Palestinians live outside of the West Bank and Gaza, primarily in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The 1993 Declaration of Principles and the related Arab-Israeli agreements up to and

including January's Hebron agreement, do not even begin to address their needs and concerns.

That is why virtually anyone who looks at the conflict honestly and dispassionately must recognise that there is no hope for a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict without an enduring and regionally inclusive resolution of the refugee question. In other words, for a final peace agreement to have legitimacy and therefore permanent stability, it will have to achieve a satisfactory status for the refugees.

But why has this topic been so often ignored, or if mentioned, referred to as a "taboo"? Why, when the media reports on the issues yet to be negotiated in the final status round of talks, do we hear about Jerusalem, the settlements, the borders, security, but often, no mention of the refugees? Why are there over 80 different, publicly floated proposals on what to do about Jerusalem, but few well-known proposals (other than the notorious "transfer" plans of the Israeli right-wing) about the refugees?

Understanding why this taboo is so strong actually provides some clues as to how to solve the question. Israelis of almost all political and ideological persuasions have viewed the very idea of the return of Palestinian refugees as, first of all, a demographic threat, second, a security threat, and third, an existential threat to Israel's identity as a refuge for Jewish

refugees.

If not all of these, then at least a legal and financial nightmare, on the assumption that over three million refugees would turn up on Israeli doorsteps, either demanding their houses back or making claims for vast amounts of compensation. For Israelis, even those on the far left, it has been treated as heresy to even contemplate the issue.

Ironically, even for the Palestinian Authority, the issue of refugee return has been given short shrift, relegated near the bottom of their lists of negotiation objectives. For two reasons, primarily:

First, because the Oslo process has shifted the PLO's traditional constituency, the Palestinian diaspora living in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, to the sidelines, in favour of the more centralised locales of the West Bank and Gaza, and directed its immediate concern to building a governing apparatus there. The refugees, particularly those in camps in Lebanon, living in the most dire conditions, have been lost in the shuffle.

Second, the Palestinian Authority is not yet ready to acknowledge formally and officially — even though Palestinian moderates, speaking for themselves, have done it — that in practical terms, not every refugee will be able to return "home" to the territory that is now Israel. Most official spokespersons still use the language of absolute ultimatums.

Nevertheless, because the PLO has already, for nine years now, accepted Israel's

right to exist within its pre-1967 borders, and has only sought statehood in the West Bank and Gaza, it has more or less acknowledged that actual and complete "return" is not possible. In other words, the stage has been set for substituting the collective right to statehood for the aggregate of millions of individuals returning to their original homes.

If she can steer both sides away from heated arguments over who caused the initial flight of the refugees in 1948, over their original numbers and definitions, and over the bombastic rhetoric of "return," Secretary Albright has a chance to broker a final peace treaty before the end of her boss's second term as U.S. president.

This will not be easy. But if the parties allow the refugee question to be relegated to the very end of the negotiations, after all the other issues are resolved, diaspora Palestinians will lose patience and reject the legitimacy of the peace process. Whether or not they cheer on suicide bombers, most of the refugees are close to this breaking point already.

Donna E. Arz is a professor in Syracuse University's College of Law, associate director of the College's Centre for Global Law and Practice and author of "Refugees into Citizens: Palestinians and the End of the Arab-Israeli Conflict," a 1997 Council on Foreign Relations book. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Sovereignty vs blood

To the Editor:

THE ALGERIAN National Liberation Front (FLN) struggled for years and the Algerian people gave hundreds of thousands of martyrs, until independence was achieved from France.

When the FLN took control of the country, it was a rich country, with oil, gas and agriculture, that had been reasonably developed by the French colonialists. Instead of building on that potential and the existing economic infrastructure, in the spirit of the struggle for freedom and independence to serve the Algerians, the nationalist rulers of Algeria behaved with the misguided notion that having liberated the country, it belonged to them. As a result, they plundered the country, lived in splendour, plunged Algeria in foreign debt that amounted to \$28 billion (its interest alone consumed 80 per cent of the country's oil income) while the people grew poorer and unemployed; they watched on while their standard of living deteriorated year after year. In the name of having liberated the country, the nationalist rulers, brought the country to the edge of ruin and the people to despair. The poor and the weak, when in despair, look to God for salvation; thus millions flocked to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) to vent their anger, offering the FIS an overwhelming electoral edge.

Normally, anger and revolt are directed at the alleged perpetrators of misery and injustice, but in Algeria things seem to be different and the practice takes a very morbid form. Dissidents, claiming to be Islamists, think it proper to vent their dissent by slitting the throats of babies, slashing the wombs of pregnant women, abducting and raping young girls and exploding bombs in public places, killing innocent bystanders; wanton slaughter of innocent people goes on unabated. Something is seriously wrong in Algeria.

By requesting an explanation from the Algerian government regarding the ongoing carnage, U.N. Chief Kofi Annan may have transcended his jurisdiction, considering that this is an internal matter that the U.N. Charter does not deal with and hence a matter of sovereignty. Nevertheless, Mr. Annan was correct in asking for an explanation about a human rights situation that is baffling and unprecedented.

The world is growing smaller, and its conscience is, hopefully, growing bigger; when one follows the news of what the human being is capable of committing, one cannot be oblivious of the horrible suffering of millions of defenceless civilians. Cambodia, Rwanda-Burundi, Bosnia, Somalia, northern Iraq, and now the carnage in Algeria are just a few examples of the wanton slaughter of people and aggravated human rights situations.

One raises the question of whether the traditional concept of the sovereignty of nations should not be revised to allow interference in the internal affairs of nations when humanity is threatened on such a scale.

Omar Abbasi
Amman

King describes assault on Misha'al as 'irresponsible act'

(Continued from page 1)

especially that negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians have resumed. (For me) it is a very strange matter.

Q: What will you do with the two suspects?

A: The proper procedures will be followed, though from a realistic point of view, there is no physical evidence in hand that would prove what happened to brother Misha'al. Even his comrades then said that nobody touched him directly. On the other hand, we took a stand that led to securing the right medication to save his life.

Q: Doesn't that mean that there is an Israeli intention to violate peace with Jordan?

A: We only accept that the peace treaty should be respected the way we respect it. We also do not accept any trespassing that would endanger the life of any Jordanian citizen. Jordan is fully committed to peace and fully committed not to allow its territory to be used to attack others or to harm them in anyway possible. Everybody in this country knows this very well. We made this clear in all the contacts we made here in Jordan, in the region and in the world at large.

Q: What did you say to Benjamin Netanyahu, and did you ever contemplate recalling the Jordanian ambassador in Tel Aviv?

A: Had we not received the medication that enabled us to cure Mr. Misha'al, we would have taken many other measures.

Q: What did you tell the Americans, especially President (Bill) Clinton through the message that you sent him with Prince Hassan?

A: We talked about the situation in the region and the sensitivity of the situation at the moment and the need for an effective American role and coordination, something that I had already talked about with (Secretary of State) Mrs. Madeleine Albright when she visited the region.

Q: Did the Americans show understanding?

A: I think that there is an American understanding. Maybe there were some impressions that matters were alright or that they did

not reach the stage of danger yet. But now I think there is real determination to avert a catastrophe in the region.

Q: Do you think that a continuation of the Israeli policy would lead to a third Palestinian exodus into Jordan with all the implications that entails?

A: The situation is very tense. When I went to Washington upon an invitation by President Clinton to take part in the meeting with Brother Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, I left with the image of (Palestinian) villages and towns besieged by the army and heavy weapons. I have always feared a disastrous incident that would make the whole situation explode and would lead us to a new situation, the dimensions of which we cannot define. I say enough of these acts. I say let us go back to what we have agreed upon, put into effect the agreement of Oslo and adhere to the Madrid formula which is based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Q: Do you fear that Netanyahu aims at wrecking all what has been achieved since Madrid?

A: I am personally unable to reach a conclusion as to how the Israeli prime minister thinks. This makes me very worried. In every meeting we've had so far, we hear about intentions, about determination to continue the peace process, but a great deal of what we had expected has not been translated into reality that is being felt by the people. Matters in fact are going into the other direction, in the direction of despair. At the moment, we are at a point in which, God willing, we hope that matters will go into the right direction.

Q: How do you see what happened in light of the Jordanian elections that are coming in a month and do you think there is an intention on behalf of the Islamists to reconsider their boycott of the elections?

A: The right to run for elections is a personal right. Anyone can decide to vote for what I consider a building process that would enable us to be more cohesive and to enable us to assess the direction in

which we are going. I am confident that the great majority of the people who showed noble feelings towards me during my visits to the various governorates are more mature than some politicians. This majority is the solid base that we hope we will be able to serve and who we will carry our duty towards. They represent the coming generations whose service is our target in life.

Q: Are there any developments on the level of relations with Iraq?

A: None.

Q: Everything as is?

A: Everything as is. Everything as is.

Q: Has the release of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin created any sensitivities between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)?

A: We give up on the subject of sensitivities. (Sheikh Yassin) is an honourable man. We made an effort to secure his release, especially considering his age, suffering and health condition. This effort came in response to what the Palestinian leadership and Mr. Arafat himself tried to do. Honestly, I cannot see what is wrong with what happened.

Q: Does the Palestinian leadership then show understanding?

A: During his recent visit here, I briefed Mr. Arafat on the whole situation. I called him once the airplane that carried Sheikh Yassin touched down in Amman. Besides, King Hussein Medical Centre (where Sheikh Yassin is currently being treated) is not alien to our Palestinian brothers. We had the good fortune to save President Arafat's life at the centre. After all the suffering, it is only natural to transport Sheikh Yassin to Jordan, his second home, to receive all possible treatment before heading back to Gaza.

Q: There is a great deal of talk in Jordan about succession to the Throne, especially in light of the letter that you had addressed to Prince Hamzah on his 18th birthday.

A: The Crown Prince is the joy to my eyes. He enjoys my confidence. He is my right-hand man. Prince Hassan and I have been talking for some time

about our family and who would succeed Prince Hassan, after a long life, about the possibility of having an order for choosing the best and the most qualified; the one who enjoys the support of all, for shouldering responsibility at the proper time. These ideas have their roots in our Muslim culture which has democracy, and of heading in the right direction. That's all there is to the matter.

Q: How do you see the next stage after elections?

A: I hope it will be a new beginning for more creative work.

Q: Even if it appeared that one party is in control and the opposition is marginalised?

A: No, sir. I have never at any time been supportive of the hegemony of one party. What I hope we will achieve with time, and we will need some time, is that after many parliamentary elections we would reach a stage where we would have two or three (political) parties. With this plethora of parties, we only say that congestion hinders movement. There is, it seems, a tendency to reconsider the present situation. We wait and we encourage that.

Q: Any new developments regarding relations with Syria?

A: Nothing new. Our relations are brotherly and my contacts with President Assad are continuing. But nothing new beyond that.

Q: Lastly, Your Majesty, what is your stand regarding the Doha conference?

A: The conference in itself has been decided for a long time. It was decided here in Amman (1995) that the next conference be held in Cairo (1996) and the one after in Doha. More important than the conference itself is the atmosphere that prevails in the region. What we should be doing is to create an atmosphere that attracts capital and investments so that investors would benefit and a better atmosphere in the region would be created. The success or failure of the conference is dependent on changes in such atmosphere. I hope it will be realised.

Palestinian leadership calls on U.S. to pressure Israel ahead of talks

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Palestinian leadership called for U.S. pressure on Israel to halt to settlement construction as the two sides prepared for U.S.-brokered talks next week, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa said Saturday.

"The future of the peace process is very tightly bound to the American role," the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) cabinet and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership said in a statement after their weekly meeting chaired by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Friday night.

"The United States, when it demands security for Israel, must also be very clear and decisive in its stance on the issue of settlements," the leadership said in the statement carried by Wafa.

U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross is to join Israeli and Palestinian officials in talks on Monday in Israel, which will be followed by a meeting between the two sides with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Washington on October 13.

Among other issues, the two sides are to work out the terms for a "time out" in Israeli settlement construction which Ms. Albright has insisted Israel call in order to allow the peace process to move forward.

Last week Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while saying he was ready to talk about a time out, ruled out any halt in the expansion of existing settlements.

Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat repeated Palestinian demands Saturday for a

halt to all settlement building as a condition for moving forward in the peace process.

"Renewing the peace process to its natural path requires a complete stop to settlement activity, the confiscation of lands and the destruction of homes," he told journalists.

Monday's talks will focus on resumption of negotiations on implementing Israel's long-delayed commitments from the interim self-rule accords, which have not been held for the past seven months.

The talks, which had been held off-and-on in eight committees, are to work out terms for the opening of Palestinian sea- and airports in Gaza, the opening of a safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank, the freeing of Palestinian prisoners, and other com-

mitments which Israel has failed to go through with.

PNA negotiator Erakat said the Palestinians will seek a three-month time limit on the committees' work.

"These negotiations are not just for the sake of talking. There must be a time limit on the committees so they can complete their work in the fastest time possible," he said.

The Palestinians also seek Israeli implementation of a three-stage army withdrawal from parts of the West Bank, the first two stages of which have been held up by the crisis in the peace process.

The Washington talks are to focus on the issue of settlements and of Israeli demands for a stepped-up PNA crackdown on Islamists in a bid to pave the way for resuming final-status negotiations.

Canadian envoy to Tel Aviv leaves for home

(Continued from page 1)

Ahmad Abdul Rahman, PNA cabinet general secretary.

Mr. Abdul Rahman spoke hours after Canadian Ambassador David Berger left Israel, flying home for consultations on what further measures an angry Ottawa might undertake in the row over the apparent use of forged or doctored passports.

"I praise this responsible stand of the Canadian government as regards this condemned and flagrant violation of its sovereignty by the Israeli government," Mr. Abdul Rahman told Reuters.

Abdul Aziz Rantissi, a Hamas politburo member living in Gaza said "the failed assassination attempt proved to the whole world that the source of terrorism in the entire world is the Jews, the so-called Israel is the source of terrorism, and that the acts of Hamas are nothing but self-defence."

Mr. Rantissi also said Hamas would retaliate for the murder bid. "Hamas' right to respond to the attempt has yet to be fulfilled. It will be decided by various agencies in Hamas."

Hamas has hailed as a

great victory the release of the wheelchair-bound Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, jailed by Israel in 1989 and sentenced to life for founding Hamas and ordering resistance operations.

Mr. Rantissi told Reuters that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government approved Sheikh Yassin's death-night release "to pacify Jordan after Israel used it as a battlefield."

Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy has called the recall of ambassador David Berger "a fairly serious step," but would not comment on what other measures might be taken. "We think it is absolutely unacceptable for Canadian passports to be used for these kinds of purposes, and... we want to take appropriate measures," Mr. Axworthy told journalists on Friday.

The two detained men were initially identified by PSD officials as Shawn Kendall, 28, and Barry Beards, 36. A third man, also carrying a Canadian passport, was also reported to have been involved but details remain unclear.

Suspicions were immediately aroused in Jordan when the pair declined Canadian consular assistance after their arrest. Canadian officials say the passports were forgeries or doctored Canadian documents.

The real Shawn Kendall, a Canadian who works for a Jewish charity in Tel Aviv, told CTV television, a national Canadian network, he had been unwittingly caught up in the affair. "I am the innocent victim in some screwed-up situation and I'd like it just to go away," he said.

Lawmakers in Israel have slammed Mr. Netanyahu — who analysts said would have been involved in ordering a Mossad "hit" — and have called for an official inquiry.

Mr. Abdul Rahman said the Amman attack was likely to widen the chasm of

mistrust between Israel and the Palestinians.

Years of negotiations between the sides broke down in March, when Netanyahu sparked Arab rage by approving a new Jewish settlement on the hilltop of Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem.

Mr. Abdul Rahman said the attack showed that Mr. Netanyahu's headline government "has no red lines" [self-imposed limits] regarding its interests or the methods it employs to accomplish these ends, without any concern for any peace accords or the sovereignty of Middle East states.

In Israel, the political heat turned up on Mr. Netanyahu Saturday amid outrage at home and abroad over the botched attempt, apparently conducted by Mossad on his orders.

"Netanyahu has made mistake after mistake, and this incident just shows once more how dangerously irresponsible he is," opposition Labour Party deputy Shlomo Ben Ami, head of the parliament's foreign affairs committee, told Agence France Presse (AFP).

Due to Jewish religious holidays over the past four days, Mr. Netanyahu has had a reprieve from public debate as details emerged over the alleged role of Mossad in the September 25 attempt to assassinate Hamas official Khaled Misha'al in Amman.

But with public and government activity resuming on Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu is expected to face the full heat over his role in the cloak-and-dagger operation, which has outraged Jordan, Canada and even members of Israel's own security services.

"It is completely impossible that Netanyahu did not know about this operation," Mr. Ben Ami said, calling for a government committee to investigate the attack.

The Knesset committee overseeing security ser-

vices has already decided to look into the fiasco, one of its members told AFP on Friday.

The same committee convened in 1985 after the discovery of an Israeli spy, Jonathan Pollard, in the U.S. military brought a flurry of protests from Washington.

A high-ranking Israeli government official condemned Saturday the "considerable damage" to Israeli-Canadian relations caused by the attack, Israeli radio said.

The scandal erupted only a few days after a visit by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy to Canada in which he invited Canadian Premier Jean Chretien to visit Israel, said the official, who refused to be named.

His Majesty King Hussein was also reportedly furious over the Israeli operation on his soil. PSD forces still hold the two terrorists from the attack in custody.

Mr. Netanyahu released Sheikh Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, after a request from King Hussein. The move further angered Israeli security officials who argued that his release undermined pressure on the PNA to crack down on Hamas.

Israeli television reported that government and security officials had already begun trading accusations over who is to blame for the fiasco.

Officials in Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing government blame the assassination team for botching the mission, while security officials retort that the operation should never have been approved from the start, the television said.

Mossad, which handles foreign intelligence operations, is headed by General Danny Yatom, the former military adviser to slain Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Islamists laud King for release of Hamas founder

(Continued from page 1)

that supported the Muslim Brotherhood's decision, saying that "the government did not offer any concessions and faltered dialogue."

Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour said "we [the government] have no initiative for the Islamists and electoral participation is a constitutional right that all political parties should exercise in order to educate people on what political life is."

Earlier yesterday, Arabic press reports suggested that the Islamists may revoke their July decision to boycott, following the King's moves after last week's attempted assassination against Hamas politburo chief, Khaled Misha'al, and the release of Sheikh Yassin from his eight-year detention in Israeli jails.

Minister of Information Samir Mutawi commented during a press conference also earlier yesterday that

"judging from what we read in the papers this morning and from some indications in these past few days, things are looking fairly promising."

He said there were "positive indications" that the Islamists could rescind their boycott decision and added that "we, as a government, welcome these indications and hope that in the end they will all translate into the positive outcome that we all look for."

The minister, however, maintained that the doors were open for "a dialogue with all parties in the political arena, but not with one party only, at the expenses of others."

In a bid to persuade the Islamist-led pro-boycott parties to revoke their decision, the government opened this summer a "collective dialogue" with all political parties, including pro-government ones.

The Islamists rejected the "collective dialogue" formula and described it as a

government's manoeuvre to avoid direct confrontation with them and postpone the discussion of their requests, which included the repealing of controversial amendments to the Press and Publications Law and the introduction of measures aimed at "enhancing the ceiling of public freedoms."

Meanwhile, the boycott decision seems to have caused divisions within the IAF ranks, and some prominent leaders have announced their decision to participate in the elections despite their party's directive.

Former Deputy Abdullah Akaileh has confirmed he will seek reelection in the Tafleh district.

Another Islamist former deputy, Mohammad Haj, said he will also seek reelection, but without offering his resignation, hoping that the Muslim Brotherhood and the IAF will adopt a different stand vis-a-vis electoral participation in the near future.

Hundreds saved from Cypriot liner

(Continued from page 1)

of Cyprus, helped transfer passengers and crew to the Princess Victoria.

The cruise liner sent a Mayday at 5:50 a.m. local time morning that it had suffered an engine fire some 60 miles south of the Akrotiri peninsula. British bases spokesman Mervyn Wynne-Jones told Reuters.

"Two Wessex helicopters were airborne... the Princess Victoria was sailing in the vicinity. The Wessex crew began to winch passengers and crew from the Romantica to the Victoria. The Romantica had also launched lifeboats," he said.

Yannis Papadopoulos, captain of the Princess Victoria which is operated by Cyprus-based Louis Cruise Lines, said his ship was about 10 nautical miles away from the Romantica when they saw flames coming from the stricken ship.

"When we got there the crew of the Romantica had lowered

lifeboats and were putting passengers on them... we lowered three of our own lifeboats to help in the rescue," he told the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation.

Police helicopters and vessels were in the area with British bases helicopters co-ordinating fire fighting efforts. A tug was also present.

"It is burning very badly," Mr. Wynne-Jones said. Five crew members, including the captain, were still on a police launch at the scene, the police spokesman said.

The Romantica carries out day cruises to Egypt and Israel. It was refurbished earlier this year.

"We know there was a fire. Our first concern was the safety of the passengers," Paradise Cruises executive director Nicos Anastasiades told Reuters. He said the boat, built in 1959, was fully reconstructed in 1988. Paradise cruises have been operating the vessel since May.

Crown Prince says Kingdom concerned with issues of regional dimension

(Continued from page 1)

as utterly unacceptable unilateral Israeli measures aimed at changing facts on the ground in Jerusalem during the interim period talks which resumed recently through the eight Palestinian-Israeli committees that sprang from Oslo.

The Crown Prince welcomed an active European role that would complement the American and other regional and international efforts to advance the peace negotiations.

He underlined the regional dimension of the refugees issue, stressing that the international community should meet its obligations to the United Nations Relief and Works

Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to enable it to continue fulfilling its mandate to the Palestine refugees.

The head of the delegation lauded Jordan's significant role in building peace and stability in the region and promoting centrist and moderate policies.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint-Chiefs-of-Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Miral Kaabneh, chief of staff for land forces, assistant to Field Marshal Kaabneh, the armed forces inspector general, commander of the Royal Jordanian Airforce and senior army officers.

Later, Prince Hassan met with Field Marshal Kaabneh and his assistants.

Israel's U.N. credentials may be challenged again

(Continued from page 1)

in 1967, including Al Quds Al Sharif (Jerusalem).

The foreign ministers are in New York for the annual assembly session.

As a by-product of the Middle East peace process, the credentials of Israel's U.N. delegation were accepted in 1993 without a formal challenge or the threat of one, for the first time since 1981.

From 1982 to 1989, Arab states and their supporters submitted annual amendments to make an exception of Israel's credentials when

those of other countries were approved by the General Assembly.

But each time, in a parliamentary manoeuvre, one of the Nordic countries would win adoption of a motion to take no action on the challenge.

From 1990 to 1992, in a switch of tactics, the Arab group and its supporters prepared an amendment that would have allowed Israel's credentials to be accepted, though with the proviso that they did not relate to the occupied territories.

But in a compromise, the

credentials committee's reports were not brought to the assembly plenary for endorsement. This averted controversy over Israel's credentials while sparing its opponents the prospect of dwindling support for any new challenge.

Friday's OIC communiqué also called for "ensuring the consistency of the Palestinian participation in the United Nations with the new realities, especially following the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in the Palestinian territories."

Mutawi: Israel to release prisoners soon

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Mutawi denied Israeli media reports that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had visited Israel last week and held talks with Israeli officials over the attack against Mr. Misha'al.

"There were rumours that His Royal Highness has visited Israel. These are merely speculations and such a visit did not take place," he added.

The minister said that the two suspects in custody over the assault against Mr. Misha'al will be interrogated by the public prosecutor ahead of their trial.

"There are contradictory statements about these Canadians who were arrested in Jordan," Dr. Mutawi said.

"It is difficult to take any decision or procedure before a solid proof is produced against them," he declared.

Responding to a question on the Canadian government's decision to recall its ambassador from Tel Aviv in protest of the use of Canadian passports by the Israeli Mossad, Dr. Mutawi declined to confirm that the Mossad was behind it.

"If the Canadian government has taken such measure, this is up to them. But as far as we are concerned, we will wait for the outcome of the interrogation of the two suspects which will prove if there was involvement of any party or not and then we shall declare it," he added.

Responding to a question on what would the Kingdom's reaction be if the investigation proved that the attack was masterminded by the Mossad, he asked reporters not to jump to conclusions.

"You are asking this question presupposing that there is a proof that Israel is connected with the accident. What we are saying is the investigation and interrogation of the two Canadians who are in prison at the moment is not yet complete," Dr. Mutawi said.

"Once it is complete, we shall reveal all the details, whoever or whatever is connected with this incident," he added.

The minister declined to comment on a report in the daily Al Arab Al Yawm, on Saturday claiming that eight Israeli Mossad agents, involved in the attack against Mr. Misha'al, have taken refuge at the Israeli embassy in Amman.

Dr. Mutawi also denied that the Jordanian ambassador in Tel Aviv, Omar Rifai, has been recalled to Jordan as a result of the incident. He said Mr. Rifai's presence in Jordan was merely for "a routine consultation with the Foreign Ministry."

Jordan and Iran agree to boost cooperation

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Iran decided to boost trade cooperation between the two countries following the ratification of a trade protocol that the two sides have reached in 1995, a Cabinet minister said Saturday.

Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi, who was speaking to reporters following the cabinet regular session, said the decision was made during a visit by a Jordanian trade delegation to the Iranian capital last month.

Dr. Mutawi was referring to the visit by a large trade delegation which was headed by Industry Trade and Supply Minister Hani Mulki and included representatives from the private sector.

The visit to Tehran followed a visit by Iran's trade and industry minister to Amman where the two sides agreed to hold the

meeting of the Jordanian-Iranian Higher Committee in the Iranian capital.

Dr. Mutawi said the ratification of the trade agreement by the Iranian Majlis (parliament) "will increase the chances of trade exchange between the two countries."

"Jordan will also provide Iran with industrial and medical experts," the minister said.

"The Iranian side expressed interest in the glass factory in Ma'an. They want to invest in this factory to be able to produce crystal," the minister said, quoting Dr. Mulki who briefed the Cabinet on his visit to Tehran.

The two sides "established a joint trade and industrial firm," Dr. Mutawi said. He did not specify the nature of investments in the new firm.

He said that the Jordanian delegation urged the Iranian side to increase its imports from Jordan "to

improve the balance of trade which is now in favour of Iran."

Dr. Mutawi said Dr. Mulki signed an agreement for "land transportation" adding that another "maritime agreement" is expected to be concluded in the near future.

The information minister said the two sides discussed ways to encourage "religious tourism."

Jordan has many Islamic sites that would attract Iranian Shiites. Hundreds of thousands of Iranian tourists are expected to visit these places.

Dr. Mutawi also said that a health agreement was signed during the visit. Under the agreement Iran would receive Jordanian medical experts and other forms of medical cooperation.

The minister said that an Iranian trade delegation is expected to arrive here "soon." He did not elaborate.



Jordan, Poland sign agreements

INDUSTRY, TRADE and Supply Minister Hani Mulki and Polish ambassador to Jordan, Stanislaw Polac, (above) sign an investment promotion agreement under which Polish investors can easily invest in Jordan. Below, Finance Minister Suleiman Hafez signs an agreement for exempting Jordanians and Poles from dual taxations. According to the agreement, writing off such taxations will promote investments of the citizens of both countries. Mr. Hafez said the agreement aims at promoting investments and developing Jordanian economic and trade relations with many countries. "Such an agreement will help the flow of capital between the two countries and will help establish joint projects," said the minister.



Lebanon's 1998 draft budget estimates forecast 37% deficit

BEIRUT (AP) — The government's 1998 draft budget has forecast an increase in spending and revenues while bringing down the deficit, according to reports.

Accounts in Beirut newspapers of the draft budget, which Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's cabinet has been discussing in marathon sessions, showed that the deficit of spending compared to revenues would be around 37 per cent.

Mr. Hariri said his target was to reach a deficit that "justified, reasonable and something we can defend." He said it should not exceed the 37-per cent mark. That would be a drop of 16 percentage points over the current deficit.

Without releasing any fig-

ures on the 1998 draft budget, which the government must submit to parliament next week, Mr. Hariri told reporters that unlike previous budgets the numbers will include spending that is not part of the official budget.

In Friday's newspapers, the 1998 draft budget projected spending at 7 trillion pounds (\$4.55 billion), a nearly 9 per cent increase, or about 570 billion pounds (\$370 million), over this year's figures. An additional 450 billion pounds (\$290 million) in expenditure is still pending.

The budget forecast revenues for 1998 at 4.6 trillion pounds (\$3 billion), a rise of 13 per cent, or 560 billion pounds (\$364 million), over

the 1996 income.

The extra revenues would be raised through improved collection of government dues and by imposing additional duties and fees on services such as car registration, passports, restaurants, hotels, residence permits and cement used in construction. It also envisages employers paying \$1,000 in deposit for every one of the tens of thousands of foreign employees working in Lebanon.

The budget discussions came amid unsettled money markets in the wake of a political crisis triggered by the cabinet's rejection last week of Mr. Hariri's proposal to borrow an additional \$1 billion to cover government expenses.

IMF: China must restructure state sector to maintain growth

HONG KONG (AFP) — China will need to restructure and improve its state enterprises if it is to maintain rapid growth and low inflation that has made it the Asian powerhouse, the IMF has said.

Michael Mussa, director of the IMF's Research Council, said Asia continued to be the strongest region of economic growth in the world, "that growth of course being led by the growth of the Chinese economy which should be sustained in the nine-to-10 per cent range this year and next."

The soft landing of China's economy "has succeeded in alleviating inflationary pressure," the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its semi-annual World Economic Outlook report.

It said that consumer price inflation was expected to moderate to 4.5 per cent in 1997, "a striking contrast with the 22 per cent inflation rate registered in 1994."

"At the same time, growth has been maintained at over nine per cent, which seems close to China's potential growth rate," the IMF said.

"However, sustaining such rapid growth with low inflation will require restructuring and efficiency improvements in state enterprises — including through diversifying own-

ership — financial sector reforms, and a strengthening of budget revenues," the report said.

The IMF said a strong balance of payments position "provides an opportunity to accelerate trade liberalisation, which is also critical for China's longer-term growth prospects."

"Further opening and liberalisation of the economic system will also be important looking forward," Mr. Mussa told a news conference on the report.

China's current account was expected to be roughly balanced.

Since the start of economic reform in the late 1970s, China has achieved "impressive economic growth with significant structural transformation," the report said.

It noted gross domestic product (GDP) grew an average nine per cent a year from 1978 to 1996.

Mr. Mussa said China's reform process has proceeded in controlled stages and had managed "to avoid the extremely negative consequences of the collapse of the economic and political system that we saw in a number of the other centrally planned economies in central and eastern Europe and the former

Soviet Union."

Reform that began in the agricultural sector, allowing greater flexibility for individuals and families to operate in the market sector, resulted in a huge increase in productivity and freed up workers to move into the industrial sector, Mr. Mussa said.

State firms diversified into other activities and new firms and cooperatives were created, essentially free of state enterprise system.

The price system was allowed substantially greater flexibility to provide incentive and discipline, he said.

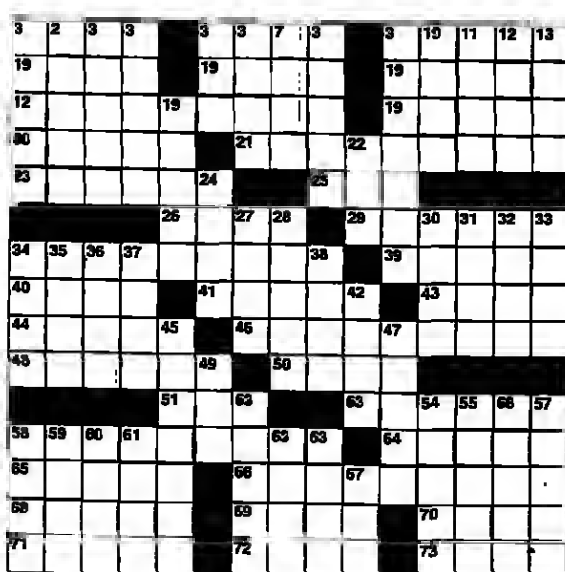
The state's role in the economy was gradually reduced, with the non-state sector now accounting for almost two-thirds of gross domestic product.

China's share in world export markets nearly tripled, with foreign reserves of more than \$120 billion ranked as the second largest in the world behind Japan.

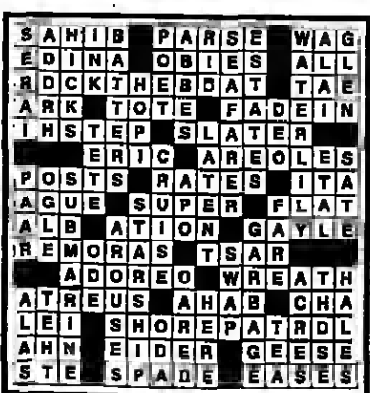
But despite rapid growth, China still had some way to go to match the income levels of newly industrialising economies such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, the IMF said.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
1. —murel
 5. Gravy holder
 9. Brag
 14. Delightful place
 15. Art deco artist
 16. Breathing lapse
 17. Angler's gear
 19. Ferocious person
 20. Statesman
 21. Balbo
 21. Singer's successes
 23. Sioux shelters
 25. Kook
 26. In order that
 28. Dinner style
 34. High hose
 39. Grass piece
 40. Summoning
 41. word
 43. Formal wear
 43. Director Kazan
 44. Shearfish
 46. Timpani sounds
 48. Philippine peninsula
 50. Ginkgo or mimosa
 51. Sis or bro
 53. Elusive one
 58. Comic's tone
 64. Deplete
 65. Talking bird
 66. Grovels
 68. Maine campus site
 69. Famous Fitzgerald
 70. Yui, to King James
 71. Chet's cousin
 72. Spare
 73. Lorenz or Moss



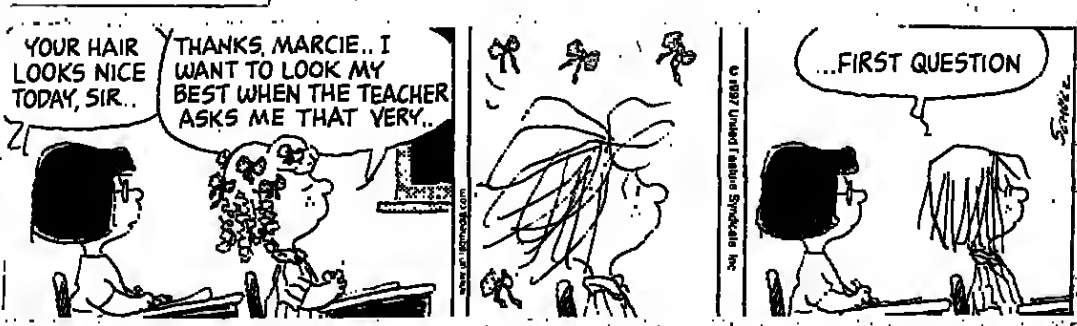
by Diane C. Baldwin



© 1997 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

- DOWN
1. — four (cake)
 2. — which will live... (FDR)
 3. Brief summation
 4. Linen braid trim
 5. Hive dweller
 6. Poetic eyes
 7. Whit
 8. Houston native
 9. Place for cleanups?
 10. Brilliant fish
 11. Against
 12. Bench
 13. Improves a road
 18. Dirt deposit
 22. Deli hero
 24. Smudge on Santa
 27. School: abbr.
 28. Go around
 30. Bolt
 31. Chorus refrain
 32. Blue-pencil
 33. Brewed drinks
 34. Dial
 35. Leningrad river
 36. Theater direction
 37. Sicilian spouter
 38. Insult
 42. Hook's henchman
 45. Hearing distance
 47. Carpentry tool
 49. Clear, financially
 52. Reason to sue
 54. School subj.
 55. Cottage for Yeltsin
 56. Glacial ridge
 57. Adjust
 58. Pollution plague
 59. Erato's harp
 60. Soon
 61. Window feature
 62. Famous Porter
 63. Beverage nut
 67. Earth tone

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES:

(March 21 to April 19) A major breakthrough's predicted for today. Toss aside your past difficulties, as new horizons beckon. When you and your partner pick an exciting goal, trivial differences dissolve. Do that this morning so you can go out together this evening.

TAURUS:

(April 20 to May 20) Carefully consider a joint purchase. Don't do it on a whim; there are too many variables. If you're buying something unfamiliar, do a little reading first. You don't need to have any unwelcome surprises. The same goes for a gamble. Take only a calculated risk.

GEMINI:

(May 21 to June 21) Let yourself be talked into doing something different. If your date wants to get wild and crazy, go along for the ride. You'll have just enough common sense between you to keep out of real trouble. Visit a place you've never been before. No reservations are required.

MOON CHILDREN:

(June 22 to July 21) Sleep in this morning. You need all the cuddling you can get. It will give you the energy to get through the week with your sense of humor intact. There's work to be done this afternoon. Thoughtless bounding around could cause a spill. Better keep your good china locked up.

LEO:

(July 22 to August 21) Calm the waters by spending more time with a family member this morning. Your attention is all that's required. Since you're feeling generous, make a few concessions, too. Go out tonight for fun and games with a person who always makes you laugh. You'll have a fabulous time.

VIRGO:

(August 22 to September 22) Study the situation at home carefully this morning. Something about the place needs to be changed. By this afternoon, you'll have figured out what's wrong and how you can make it better. Check out the items most likely to break. An ounce of prevention's worth a pound of cure.

LIBRA:

(September 23 to October 22) This past week has been pretty exciting, but today could top it all. Be bold. Learn how to do something you've always wanted to do, but were afraid to try. Mountain biking? Fly fishing? How about taking motorcycle lessons, so you can get your licence?

SCORPIO:

(October 23 to November 21) This morning you still hold the world in the palm of your hand. This afternoon, you may have to make a few concessions. It's OK. You'll always have that charismatic quality about you. If you want to get a commitment out of a person who's hard to catch, better do it early.

SAGITTARIUS:

(November 22 to December 21) Rush around this morning, checking things off your list. If you do, you'll have everything just right by this evening. That's the best time to put on your big performance. Be outrageous. You'll catch them all by surprise. They'll think you're hilarious.

CAPRICORN:

(December 22 to January 20) Your intuition's working best this morning. Use it to help settle an old issue once and for all. Your certainty will convince the others that you're right. You're looking very good this afternoon. Accept the compliments. Later tonight, keep a secret.

AQUARIUS:

(January 21 to February 19) Flaunt an older loved one this morning so you can go boogie with your friends this afternoon. It's not worth pitching a fit. The dominant one will be so pleased, you may even have a good time. If you comply when you can, your resistance is more effective when you can't.

PISCES:

(February 20 to March 20) This morning's potentially very romantic. Make the most of the opportunity. By this afternoon, you'll remember all sorts of things that need to be done before tomorrow. That's OK. By then, you should be well rested. Race around and do everything in half the time.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DORAH

NAGLD

SWILEY

TALIXY

Print answer here: ALL

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLUID DERBY MAOMAN POLICE

Answer: A night at the casino can become this - DICEY

Business & Finance

REUTERS

The Business of

DAJA

STUDIO

Develop your own business plan

30% discount

Free

20 x 30 cm

Shawcross

Grindley

Phone

Switch

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Kuwaiti businessmen to invest \$200m in various projects in the Kingdom

A KUWAITI business delegation, led by Ghazi Saq'bi, has reached agreements that can be described as "more than in principle," to set up Kuwait investment projects in Jordan in excess of \$200 million. Mr. Saq'bi, board chairman of financial and real estate companies in Kuwait, said his group intends to establish projects in the tourism and health spa sectors in Aqaba and the Dead Sea areas as well as the banking sector.

Mr. Saq'bi said all his meetings with Jordanian officials were very positive and, as such, his group will be investing about \$200 million to set up economic projects in the Aqaba and Dead Sea regions. "We have started to specify the plots of land where the projects will be set up," Mr. Saq'bi indicated noting that a Kuwaiti technical team will return to Jordan next month to complete all the necessary procedures for establishing the tourism, health spas and banking investments.

The Kuwaiti businessman told a press conference that it was also agreed during his visit to the Kingdom that a Jordanian private sector delegation, headed by former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, will visit Kuwait to strengthen economic ties between the two countries. Mr. Kabariti is now board chairman of the Amman-based Jordan Kuwait Bank.

During his visit, Mr. Saq'bi discussed the possibility of having some Jordanian banks participate in the projects he plans to establish in Jordan, Egypt or Lebanon. He said that some of the bankers with whom the discussions were held, will be asking the government's permission to participate in these projects. The Kuwaiti investor concluded by revealing his interest to raise the capital and develop two banks in Jordan by pumping Kuwaiti funds in them. He did not disclose the identity of the banks but said they originally have Kuwaiti investors (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaj).

General assembly approves merger between Philadelphia bank and financial company

THE GENERAL assembly of the Philadelphia Investment Bank has approved a recommendation from the board of directors to merge with the Jordan Financial Investments Company to raise the bank's capital to JD20 million. The bank raised its capital to JD15 million during the first half of this year as Arab investors, including Saudi Prince Al Waleed Ben Talal, and local investors bought shares. It is expected that the merger be based on the company's JD75 million paid-up capital without the need to demand the fourth instalment from the company's shareholders. The bank posted a JD1.8 million loss last year bringing the accumulated losses to JD4.4 million (Al Ra'i).

Oman to build fertiliser plant for Indian market

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf state of Oman plans to set up a fertiliser plant to tap its gas reserves and take advantage of a growing Indian market, its trade and industry minister has said.

Makbul Sultan said the project would cost around \$1 billion and contacts were under way with local investors and a company from neighbouring United Arab Emirates (UAE) to contribute to the venture.

"The plant will be commissioned in 2001 and all its production will be exported to India," he told the UAE daily Al Bayan.

Mr. Sultan gave no further details of the project, which will be Oman's first major fertiliser plant. Industry sources said it would involve the production of ammonia and urea, which are in strong demand in Asia.

Oman, a small non-OPEC oil producer, has already embarked on a multi-billion-dollar gas liquefaction project to utilise its natural gas resources following large hydrocarbon discoveries.

Ports Corporation to float JD50m tender before end of '97

By Issam Qadamani
Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA — The Ports Corporation will float a JD50 million tender by the end of this year to construct an industrial wharf at Aqaba port, Ports Corporation Director General Mohamed Al Dalabih said Saturday.

In a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Mr. Dalabih said 50 per cent of the project's costs will be covered by the European

Union. Mr. Dalabih said the Ministry of Planning and the European Investment Bank (EIB) will Sunday sign an agreement under which the EIB will give Jordan a JD24 million long-term loan to partly finance costs of the project, which is expected to be operational before the turn of this century.

The remaining amount is expected to be covered by the private sector as well as the Arab Potash and the

Jordan Phosphates Mines Company.

The new 475-metre long wharf will be able to deal with giant ships with loading capacity of more than 50,000 tonnes.

Mr. Dalabih said the new wharf is meant to cope with the increased volume of exports and imports and to facilitate exports of major mining companies, as well as the new joint industries of phosphates and potash.

Barclays breaks up BZW, to sell equities

LONDON (R) — British banking group Barclays PLC has thrown in the towel and admitted defeat in its attempt to make its investment banking unit BZW a major player on the global stage.

Barclays said it plans to sell the equities, equity capital markets and mergers and acquisitions parts of BZW and would prefer to do so as one package.

The most often mentioned name as a potential buyer for BZW has been Germany's Commerzbank, which has often stated it wants to expand strongly in London and which on Friday refused to comment on whether it would bid.

Barclays Chief Executive Martin Taylor, who bad

consistently defended the bank's big investment in BZW, said it had to be broken up because of the changing nature of the business and the recent growth in the investment needed for success.

He told reporters in a conference call that Barclays management had decided that in order to make the equities and MA business compete they would have had to make a huge investment but that the returns from this would not be enough.

"What we wanted to avoid doing was throwing huge amounts of money at the equity business and not making it," Mr. Taylor said.

"We've come to the conclusion that by far the most

sensible way to go is to find a buyer...and let them decide the exact amount and direction of investment that's appropriate."

Barclays said BZW's markets division, which includes treasury and foreign exchange, and debt-related, lending and private equity will be formed into a new group called Barclays capital group while a buyer will be sought for equities, equity capital markets and mergers and acquisitions.

Barclays said BZW Chief Executive Bill Harrison, brought into the investment bank less than two years ago to revitalise it, has resigned.

Mr. Taylor said that after Mr. Harrison joined, he and Bob Diamond, who will

now head Barclays capital, had set about improving the profitability of the markets side of the business and had only turned their attention fully to equities this summer.

"We came to the conclusion that we needed to do something different," Mr. Taylor said. "There comes a point when a business needs not just a major investment in people and systems but maybe a major acquisition as well. I don't know."

Mr. Taylor said Barclays had concluded that for the business to provide "best value" that it should become part of a business with "complementary skills."

Mr. Harrison, speaking in

the same conference call, said BZW had a major presence in the U.K. market, numbering 20 out of the blue-chip 100 index as clients.

He said BZW had an important brokerage business and was making inroads into the European market, being involved in issues for Telecom Italia and Endesa in Spain.

But Harrison said very large investment was required. "There are some very big airplanes," he said, referring to bulge-bracket U.S. investment banks like Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

Rumours that Barclays might sell BZW have been rife in the city for months but intensified this week as Barclays share price rose on speculation that it might sell all or part of BZW to a foreign bank.

Barclays shares divided 116 pence on Friday to 16.31 pounds (\$26.29), after jumping \$4p to a record 18.05 on Thursday, as dealers expressed some concern over the sale process, with no buyer yet identified.

Mr. Taylor said Barclays had not yet opened negotiations with anyone over the sale but added it would rather sell the businesses as one package.

He refused to speculate on how much the business is worth, saying that this partly depended on who the buyer is and how much of the back-office operation it needed to take.

Formed in 1985, BZW was the largest investment bank still in British hands following the sale of other houses such as S.G. Warburg and Kleinwort Benson to overseas buyers. But BZW had not made the returns that Barclays' chiefs had hoped for.

Barclays said the businesses to be sold had generated revenues of around 200 million pounds (\$322.5 million) in the first half of this year out of a BZW total of 692 million pounds.

Many analysts have urged Barclays to sell all or part of BZW because its relatively low return on capital was dragging down returns in the bank as a whole.

Asked whether the breakup of BZW marked a huge change in strategy, Mr. Taylor said it did not.

"I think it's a fork in the road. If you listen to what we've been saying over the past year or two...and look at BZW as a group of businesses rather than a single one, people will not be surprised."

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	YEN	EGP
US Dollar	-	1.7565	0.6188	1.4485	122.05	1.3740	1721.24	1.9790	5.9110
DE Mark	0.5693	-	0.3521	0.8246	69.47	0.7820	979.65	1.1268	3.3851
GB Sterling	1.6180	2.6380	-	2.3400	197.21	2.2204	2781.52	3.1981	9.5522
CH Franc	0.6904	1.2120	0.4268	-	84.23	0.9480	1167.64	136.99	4.0785
JP Yen	0.0082	1.4386	0.5067	1.1663	-	1.1253	14.10	162.08	4.8411
CA Dollar	0.7278	1.2917	0.4508	1.0558	1.13	-	1255.88	1.4438	4.3072
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0199	0.3592	0.8841	1412.43	0.7978	-	11.49	3.4322
NL Guilder	0.5053	88.73	0.3125	73.19	61.83	0.6941	869.53	-	2.9861
FR Franc	0.1692	0.2971	0.1046	24.4969	20.62	0.2324	33.47	33.4700	-

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7505	0.3770	3.6399	0.3042	3.6728	1536.00	3.3985
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2888	0.5317	5.1339	0.4291	5.1903	2166.43	4.7934
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	409.55	0.9061
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8808	9.9491	-	9.86	0.8070	9.74	4074.59	9.0153
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0838	1.01	421.99	0.9337
Kuwait Dinar	3.2873	2.3307	12.3291	1.2392	11.97	-	12.07	5049.31	0.9337
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0208	0.9910	0.0828	-	418.21	0.9253
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4616	2.4417	0.2454	2.3897	0.2391	-	2.2126	-
Egyptian	0.2942	0.2086	1.1036	0.1109	1.0710	0.0895	1.0807	451.96	-

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SAR Riyal	0.2666	0.4685	0.185	0.3084	32.553
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4784	0.1885	0.3046	33.245
KW Dinar	3.2873	5.777	2.0342	4.7842	401.45
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.6598	1.8415	3.8447	323.94
CY Pound	1.9167	3.3702	1.1869	2.7752	234.18

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	334.6	335.1
Silver (oz's)	5.28	5.3
Platinum (oz's)	428.5	430.5
AL (3 Months)	1657	1662
CU (3 Months)	2072	2075
Zinc (3 Months)	1335	1340
Lead (3 Months)	620	624
NI (3 Months)	6650	6690

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	187.33	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1715	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	304.5	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	136	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	23.85	Spot
Tea (stg/kg)	154	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	430	Spot

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.706	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1433	1.149
DE Mark	0.4025	0.4045
CH Franc	0.4882	0.4906
FR Franc	0.1198	0.1204
JP Yen	0.579	0.5819
NL Guilder	0.3573	0.3591
IT Lira	0.4105	0.4126

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHEIKH SAUD									
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 04/10/1997									
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / R	QTY.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
HIGH	LOW								
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	E	0.00	31	11550	22292	1.93	1.93
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	3	120	352	2.95	2.93
1.190	0.890	HID. EAST INV. BK.	61.7	0.00	13	6050	3859	3.97	3.97
2.840	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.2	0.00	6	3200	7844	2.44	2.47
5.200	4.600	THE HOUSING BK.	14.71	3.94	7	1422	7003	4.92	4.93
4.110	3.440	JOR. KUWAIT BANK	18.0	0.00	6	6174	19631	3.20	3.18
1.050	0.740	JOR. GULF BANK	6.0	3.23	13	17000	14341	0.85	0.84
4.030	3.520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.1	3.24	15	8035	18726	3.71	3.70
1.530	1.110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	11.0	0.00	2	1050	1260	1.20	1.20
3.750	3.080	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	22.8	0.00	2	478	1677	3.55	3.55
2.050	0.890	SEIT. AL-HAL (BRITISH)	.6	16.48	8	2300	2110	.93	.91
5.150	3.850	ARAB BANKING CO.	18.3	0.00	4	166	622	3.85	3.80
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 241.35 %CHG: -0.02 115 54545 101730									
2.170	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.2	8.15	11	11000	20135	1.83	1.84
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 114.20 %CHG: +0.05 11 11000 20135									
2.050	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.3	5.21	135	74237	142425	1.96	1.92
3.780	3.320	IRBID ELECTRICITY	22.9	2.99	11	7050	7779	3.70	3.65
6.100	4.100	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	13.1	4.69	1	100	426	4.26	4.26
1.550	0.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	3	1450	1927	1.33	1.33	-
1.010	0.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	2	2000	1840	.92	.92
.810	.460	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	27.7	0.00	4	2950	1593	1.54	1.54
1.740	1.150	MID. EAST HOTELS	20.4	0.00	7	13000	16830	1.28	1.34
3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. DEV. EDUC.	9.2	0.00	30	18700	63741	3.50	3.54
1.170	.930	JARNA EDUCATION	9	0.00	6	1200	1254	1.00	.98
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.29 %CHG: +0.01 199 115747 239813									
4.450	3.220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	25.4	2.91	16	25601	97580	3.80	3.78
7.050	5.420	JOR. POTASH CO.	14.0	3.33	1	250	1500	6.25	6.00
11.040	9.070	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	10.6	8.10	16	1970	21629	10.98	10.98
3.260	1.620	INDUSTRIAL CORP. AMR.	9	0.00	4	1000	1640	1.65	1.64
4.700	3.040	ARAB FARM. IND.	12.6	4.36	22	4668	21428	4.60	4.59
7.250	5.790	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	3	8	1200	6703	5.80	5.59	
2.650	2.150	JORDAN DAIRY	9.1	9.05	1	100	270	2.65	2.70
1.760	1.270	JOR. PAPER MANUFACT.	15.7	6.30	1	700	889	1.27	1.27
9.800	5.000	ARAB CHEM. DISTRIB.	14.0	4.58	1	200	1310	6.50	6.55
5.950	4.300	DAR ALADAM OV. INV.	10.5	4.24	9	40076	240358	5.90	5.90
3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.7	10.20	3	12650	30989	2.47	2.45
.730	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.6	0.00	44	34750	17463	.52	.50
1.240	.850	ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD.	20.7	0.00	6	3150	2614	.86	.84
.770	.510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	4	3750	2029	.55	.55
1.200	.910	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	2	1000	550	.55	.55
3.000	2.070	NATL. CABLE WIRE MFG.	35.3	0.00	2	600	1333	2.30	2.20
.530	.530	JOR. SULFUR CHEM.	0.00	0.00	23	11750	7770	.66	.66
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.7	5.18	5	700	918	1.31	1.31
1.400	.700	KANTHER INVEST.	67.0	0.00	2	250	170	.70	.62
1.880	1.080	UNIV. HOUS. INDS.	12.1	0.00	7	1750	2175	1.24	1.24
.900	.900	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	11.1	11.11	13	3650	3290	.91	.90
1.620	1.300	NATL. CHLORINE	14.7	4.49	1	500	780	1.54	1.56
1.070	0.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4	0.00	12	6000	5376	.84	.84
1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	7	4400	4552	1.14	1.14
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 120.35 %CHG: -1.89 203 160665 473339									
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 174.92 %CHG: -0.69 528 341957 834997									
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 04/10/1997									
.710	.410	HACH. EXP. RENT. MAIN.	9	0.00	4	1500	803	.53	.55
.620	.380	JOR. TRADE FAC.	12.3	0.00	68	198100	96151	.48	.46
1.950	1.060	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	82.7	0.00	6	12100	14459	1.24	1.26
.660	.660	UNION INV. 50	1	0.00	1	2580	2580	.74	.74
.570	.360	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	8	9500	3800	.41	.40
38.000	29.000	JOR. TOURIST TRANS. CO	3.5	2.78	1	100	3600	34.65	36.00
.810	.850	UNITED FOR FINAN. INV.	52.6	0.00	1	1000	1010	1.00	1.01
.480	.480	JOR. INDO	0.00	0.00	2	1500	560	.80	.80
.540	.380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	46.1	0.00	4	2150	860	.40	.40
.650	.330	KWIL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	2	550	220	.39	.40
.400	.400	NATL. WOLF. IND. (RAMCO)	21.0	0.00	1	2150	894	.42	.41
.810	.710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	5	4450	3388	.77	.76
.520	.460	ARAB ELECT. INDS.	9	0.00	1	500	230	.46	.46
.680	.580	MIDWEST FARM. 75X	E	0.00	8	14100	5353	.64	.63
GRAND TOTAL 205 434262 193017									

World Cup qualifiers

Late Kazakhstan strike pins back Japan in Group B

UAE lose 3-0 to South Korea

ALMATY (AFP) — Viktor Zubarev struck an equalizer in injury time as Kazakhstan held Japan to a 1-1 draw in the Asian Group B World Cup qualifier on Saturday, undermining Japan's hopes of competing in their first World Cup finals.

Japan, who are joint hosts with South Korea for the 2002 World Cup finals, seemed all set for a 1-0 win with the clock already more than six minutes into injury time when Pavel Yevtyev slipped a pass between defenders for Zubarev to pick up just outside the area and hammer home.

Shu Kamo, the Japanese manager, was disappointed at dropping two vital points but refused to concede that his country's chances of qualifying automatically were over.

"We still have a very slim chance (to qualify for the finals), so we have to do our best to take the chance," Kamo said.

"We had several chances to score today and we missed all of them ... I'll have to find out why we lost the goal ... maybe we made a big mistake," he added.

Kazakhstan, looking for their first win in the five-team final qualifying round, got off to a good start with a chance in the 12th minute when Vitaly Sparyshev's shot just went wide.

But the Japanese fought back, taking the lead in the 22nd minute off Yutaka Akita, who nodded in a near corner kick from Hiroshi Nanami.

Kazakhstan suffered a major setback in the 59th minute when Oleg Litvinenko was stretched off to be replaced by Vladimir Loginov.

Zubarev narrowly missed with a shot in the 76th minute and Kazakhstan seemed unable to crack the Japanese defence.

The visitors almost put the game beyond reach in the 88th minute, but were beaten by a brilliant save from keeper Oleg Voskoboinikov, and then had another crack minutes later when Hidetoshi Nakata bampered the ball off the right post.

Japan have won just once in their four qualifying matches and trail leaders South Korea by seven points. South Korea went five points clear in the group on Saturday with a 3-0 beating of second placed United Arab Emirates in Seoul.

In the next games on October 11, Kazakhstan will play South Korea at home, while Japan will meet bottom side Uzbekistan away.



Yutaka Akita of Japan scores the goal while Kazakh's goalkeeper Oleg Voskoboinikov fails to make a save during their World Cup Asian zone second round, Group B qualifying. The match ended in a 1-1 draw (Reuters photo)



South Korea's Jang Hyung-Seok (L) and UAE's Hassan Saeed Rashid Ahmed fight for the ball during their World Cup Asian zone second round, Group B qualifying match in Seoul. South Korea beat the United Arab Emirates 3-0 (Reuters photo)

The winners from the two Asian groups go automatically through to the finals and the two second placed teams play off for a third spot. The loser of the play-offs will play Australia for a fourth spot.

Asian Group B table

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
South Korea	4	4	0	0	10	2	12
UAE	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Japan	4	1	2	1	8	6	5
Kazakhstan	4	0	2	2	2	9	2
Uzbekistan	4	0	1	3	7	12	1

Jamaica joyous after draw with U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Jamaica felt triumphant without winning while the United States was fortunate to escape with a 1-1 draw in World Cup qualifying, squandering a key match in quest of a finals berth.

Deon Burton scored Jamaica's first goal against a U.S. side since 1988, providing the equalizer in the 51st minute here Friday to humble a U.S. squad back at full health and confident enough to predict victory.

"It was a game we planned to win to put Jamaica behind us," U.S. midfielder Tab Ramos said. "It was a game we expected to win. Now we have to keep fighting."

U.S. star Eric Wynalda scored on a penalty kick in the 49th minute after Chilean referee Mario Fernando Sanchez called defender Ian Goodison for a hand ball on a crossing pass from Wynalda.

The result put Jamaica atop the CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football) qualifying group, although unbeaten Mexico are one point back with three games in hand.

The Jamaicans are 3-2 with three drawn for 12 points. The U.S. team is third, the final qualifying spot for next year's finals in France, at 2-1 with four drawn for 10 points.

"We're very happy but we're not there," Jamaican technical director Rene Simoes said. "It's a marathon. We still have 100 meters left. But it was a great step."

The Brazilian also fired back at U.S. insults during the week about a lack of discipline and technique from smaller

nations. "You can get away from sport and spread some good news — nobody is so small they cannot fight a big fight," Simoes said.

Burton, a British-born forward for Derby County, took advantage of a U.S. defensive error for his third goal in as many matches for Jamaica, trying to be the first Caribbean nation to reach the finals in 24 years.

U.S. defender Jeff Agoos, who entered in the 37th minute, had a poor pass near his own goal deflected by Jamaica's Paul Hall. The ball went to an unguarded Burton, who blasted it past U.S. goalkeeper Kasey Keller.

"Paul did a lot of good work on the defender and when (Agoos) made the mistake, I was there," Burton said. "I couldn't believe my luck. It fell at my feet."

"It was an unfortunate mistake," Agoos said.

Jamaica had not scored in five matches against the United States over the past nine years. The U.S. team remained unbeaten against Jamaica at 6-0 with four drawn.

U.S. midfielder Claudio Reyna received a yellow card in the 36th minute and will miss the Americans' November 2 qualifying match at Mexico, one made more crucial by the Americans' disappointing effort here.

"We will pick our heads up and go on," U.S. captain John Harkes said. "We must put this behind us. Hopefully we can steal a point in Mexico."

NBA bad boys suspended for crimes

NEW YORK (AFP) — Troubled National Basketball Association guards Isaiah Rider of Portland and Allen Iverson of Philadelphia were suspended without pay for pleading no contest to off-season misdemeanor offenses.

NBA officials suspended Rider for the Trail Blazers' first two games of the season, at home against Seattle and at the Los Angeles Clippers, and banished Iverson from the 76ers' opening game at home against Milwaukee.

The NBA season begins October 31. Training camps opened Friday.

During the off-season, Rider was convicted of possession of marijuana in Oregon and pleaded no contest to possession of illegal cellular tele-

phones in California. Iverson pleaded no contest to carrying a concealed weapon in Virginia.

"NBA players are obligated to conduct themselves according to the highest possible standards," NBA commissioner David Stern said in a statement.

"These suspensions should serve to remind everyone associated with the NBA that improper or unprofessional behaviour, on or off the court, will be met with appropriate penalties."

About to begin his fifth NBA season and second with Portland, Rider has had numerous run-ins with the law. This summer's arrest was his second for possession of marijuana and he also was placed on probation for an incident in Minnesota in which he

allegedly struck a female sales clerk. Rider averaged a career-low 16.1 points and 4.0 rebounds in 76 games with the Trail Blazers last season.

Iverson vindicated his selection as the first overall pick in the 1996 draft by winning Rookie of the Year honours. He was seventh in the league in scoring with 23.5 points a game and 11th in assists with 7.5 a contest.

This summer's incident was not the first brush with the law for Iverson.

As a high school student in 1993, he was convicted of three counts of maiming by mob and spent three months in jail before Virginia Court of Appeals overturned the conviction and then-Governor Douglas Wilder granted him clemency.

Dichio quits Sampdoria

MILAN (AFP) — English striker Daniel Dichio left Sampdoria on Saturday, just a few months after arriving, after completing a move to Italian Serie A basement side Lecce.

Lecce have agreed to pay Sampdoria two billion lira (£750,000) for joint ownership of the former England Under-21 international.

The 22-year-old Dichio drafted in from Queens Park Rangers over the summer as a reserve, had been told to look elsewhere following Sampdoria's early UEFA Cup exit.

Sampdoria were already committed to main strikers Germany's Jurgen Klinsmann and Vincenzo Montella, with Sandro Tovalieri as first reserve up front.

Lecce, whose expected signing of Cameroon marksman Francois Omam Biyik fell through last week, desperately need a new striker to secure their first points of the season after four straight defeats.

Dichio was expected in Lecce later on Saturday, but was not expected to make his debut in Sunday's game against Bari.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Masterkova has surgery

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's 800m and 1,500m Olympic champion Svetlana Masterkova had an operation on her right achilles tendon, media reports said Friday. Masterkova, injured in August's athletics world championships in Athens, went under the surgeon's knife in a Moscow clinic on Thursday. Masterkova received treatment on both achilles in 1991.

Germany meet S. Africa

DUSSELDORF (AFP) — Germany will meet South Africa here on November 15 in their build-up to the 1998 World Cup, the German federation announced on Friday. German officials will meet a South African federation delegation to discuss further details.

Anderson out

BARCELONA (AFP) — Barcelona's Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson will be out for several weeks with a left leg injury, club doctors announced on Friday. The 26-year-old former Monaco player got injured in Wednesday's 2-2 European Champions League draw against PSV Eindhoven.

Lizarazu has operation

BONN (AFP) — French international defender Bixente Lizarazu is set to have a groin operation on Monday and will be out of the Bayern Munich line-up for several weeks. Lizarazu has been suffering for some time with the problem and thereby missed Munich's 3-1 win at Gothenburg in the European Champions League on Wednesday.

Courier in China Open final

BEIJING (AFP) — Top seed Jim Courier of the United States reached the China Open final at his first attempt and will play fifth-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden for the title on Sunday.

Courier beat third-seeded Thomas Johansson of Sweden 6-3, 6-4 in Saturday's semi-finals. "It wasn't that easy, but I think I was a bit more solid on the big points," said former world number one Courier. "It was closer than the score indicated."

Gustafsson beat Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark 6-2, 6-4 in his semi-final.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
3 TANNAR HERSCH

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
10 20	Pass	1A	Pass	Pass
46543 0AQ55 0843 4A5	Pass	2A	Pass	Pass
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?	What do you bid now?			
Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST			
AA1035 0K1074 0A55 4A5	1A	Pass	2A	Pass
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?	2NT	Pass	3A	Pass
Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:	What do you bid now?			
AAK6 0J954 0J73 4Q55	SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST			
The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST	1A	Pass	2A	Pass
10 20 7	3A	Pass	3A	Pass
What action do you take?	What do you bid now?			
Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST			
4J73 0A3755 0A6553 4V64	1A	Pass	2A	Pass
The bidding has proceeded:	2A	Pass	3A	Pass
What action do you take?	What do you bid now?			

CINEMA TEL: 634144	PHILADELPHIA "1"	PHILADELPHIA "2"	CINEMA TEL: 699238	PLAZA	CINEMA TEL: 677420	CONCORD	CINEMA TEL: 079 33430	GALLERIA 1	CINEMA TEL: 079 33430	GALLERIA 2	TEL: 625155
	Bruce Willis...in THE FIFTH ELEMENT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Eddie Murphy...in THE NUTTY PROFESSOR Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Paul Hogan...in FLIPPER Shows: 12:30, 3:30		Curt Russel...in CAPTAIN RON Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Hugh Grant & Mr. Bean...in FOUR WEDDINGS & A FUNERAL (12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30) CONCORD "2" MONKEY TROUBLE Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only		ABDOUN John Travolta & Nicolas Cage...in FACE OFF Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45		ABDOUN Julia Roberts...in MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	

Chang to play Stark in repeat of 1996 final

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Top seed Michael Chang will face fellow American Jonathan Stark, his co-quarter in last year's final, in an intriguing start to the 1997 Singapore Open next week.

"What can you say — it's pretty rare that this sort of thing happens," the unseeded Stark said Saturday after he was drawn to play the world number two Tuesday at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

"But I knew I wasn't going to be seeded and there was always this possibility. It's obviously going to be a tough match. We'll just have to go out there Tuesday night and do our best," added Stark, 26, whose straight-set victory over Chang here last year gave him one of just two career singles titles.

Chang spent Saturday meeting fans over a promotional lunch at the Planet Hollywood restaurant. Stark, now ranked 72 in the world and better known as a doubles player, rode a powerful serve all the way from the qualifying rounds to the title here in 1996.

"We've always had good matches. I've played him eight times so far and beat him twice. It'll be fun," Stark said.

Second seeded Chilean Marcel Rios, the world number 10 who has become the latest bad boy of world tennis for his temper tantrums, faces Justin Gimelstob of the United States in another first-round encounter.

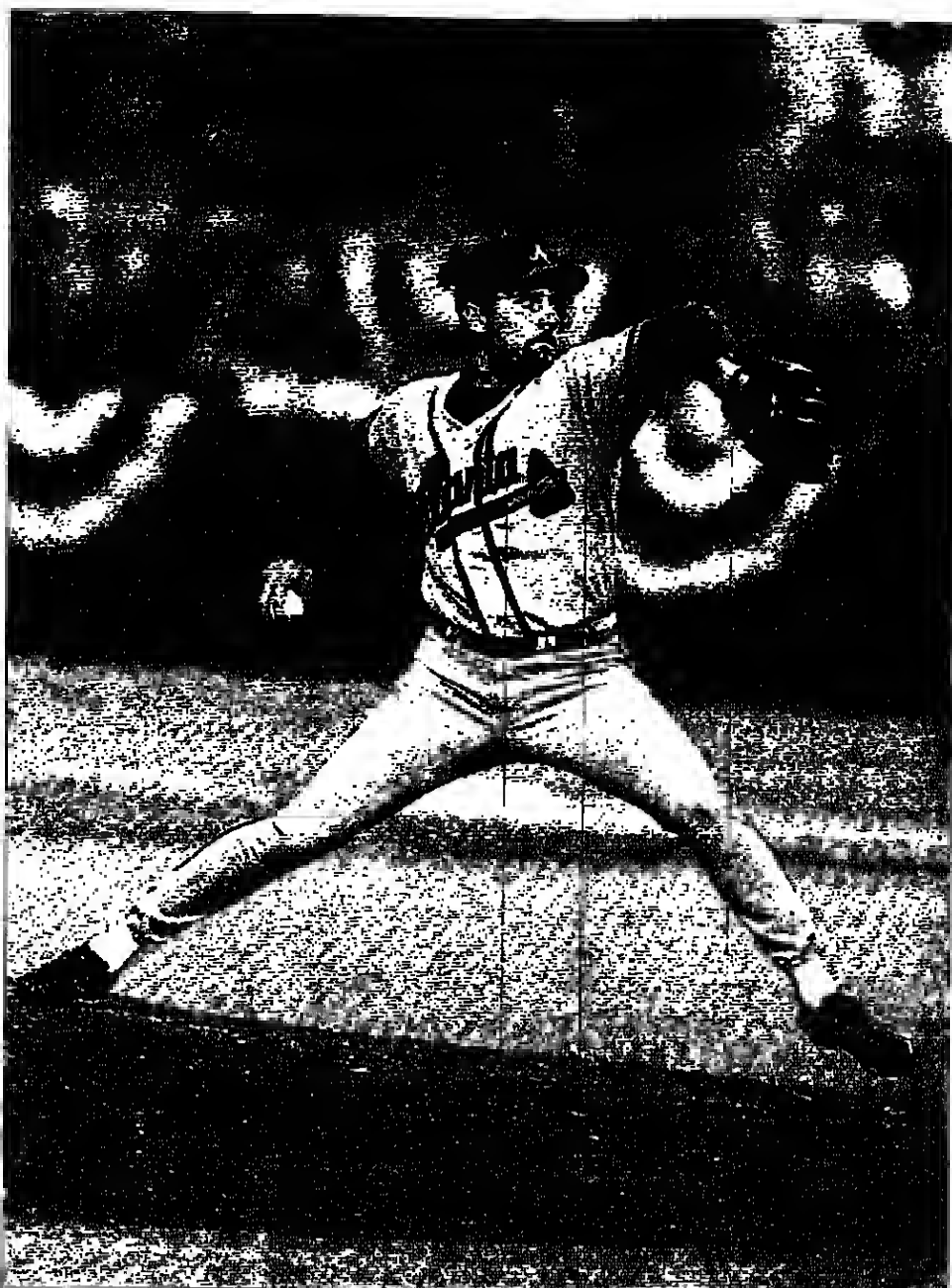
Third seeded Jim Courier has an easy outing against Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand and fourth seeded Australian Mark Woodforde comes up against Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden in other first round action.

Super Movies and Orbit-ESPN sports team up for the NBA

SUPER MOVIES and Orbit ESPN Sports are teaming up to offer a behind the scenes and on-the-court view of the joys of victory and the agony of defeat that make up the exciting world of the NBA. Viewers can put themselves in the shoes of two aspiring young American athletes in Hoop Dreams, premiering on Super Movies Tuesday, October 7 at 8 p.m. GMT with a rescreening on Saturday, November 8 at 12:00 p.m. GMT.

Considered one of the most poignant sports documentaries ever made, this film follows the lives of two inner-city Chicago youths, Arthur Agee and William Gates, as they dream of becoming basketball superstars. A truly unique documentary, Hoop Dreams shows what it really takes to make it to the NBA.

Join the giants of the NBA whose hoop dreams came true with Orbit-ESPN Sports' live coverage of the new season in November, tipping off with the World Champion Chicago Bulls with Michael Jordan against the Boston Celtics on Saturday, November 1 at 1:00 a.m. GMT. Tune in Wednesday, November 5 at 1:00 a.m. GMT, when the Houston Rockets travel to Seattle to take on the SuperSonics.



Atlanta Braves pitcher John Smoltz throws a pitch during ninth inning action against the Houston Astros October 3. Smoltz pitched a three-hitter to tie the record for post-season wins as the Braves beat the Astros 4-1 to take the NL Division Series in three games (Reuters photo)

Braves and Marlins sweep into NLCS

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Atlanta Braves Friday earned their sixth straight berth in the National League Championship Series (NLCS), where they'll face the precocious Florida Marlins, newcomers to baseball's postseason.

In Houston, 53,688 fans — the biggest baseball crowd ever at the Astrodome — couldn't help the Astros, who were swept in three games by the best team in baseball this season.

John Smoltz pitched a three-hitter to tie the Major-League record for postseason wins as the Braves beat the Astros 4-1 to complete a 3-0 series win.

The Marlins, in the playoffs for the first time in franchise history, swept their way with a 6-2 victory over the San Francisco Giants behind seven strong innings from pitcher Alex Fernandez and a grand slam by Devon White.

The Marlins became the first team since the 1984 San Diego Padres to win their first postseason series. By contrast, the Giants have lost seven straight postseason games.

After winning two games in Florida with ninth-inning rallies, the Marlins took care of things earlier in the clincher in San Francisco.

Fernandez allowed a pair of solo homers by Jeff Kent

but not much else. He gave up seven hits without a walk while striking out five in recording his first career postseason win. He was a two-time loser with the Chicago White Sox in the 1993 American League Championship Series (ALCS) against Toronto.

The portly right-hander outdueled Wilson Alvarez, his former teammate who won a seven-hitter in the 1993 ALCS. Alvarez had just one bad inning, but it cost him the game.

Nursing a 1-0 lead, Alvarez retired the first two batters of the sixth and had a 2-2 count on Moises Alou, who singled to center. An infield hit by Jeff Conine and a walk to Charles Johnson loaded the bases before White blasted a 2-1 pitch over the fence in left, silencing the crowd and giving Florida a 4-1 lead.

White entered the series with a 339 career postseason average but was hitless in seven at-bats before he singled in the second.

Atlanta, which finished with baseball's best record at 101-61, is headed to the NL Championship Series for the sixth straight consecutive season.

Smoltz improved to 10-2 in October by striking out 11, his personal best in the postseason, and walking just one. His only serious mistake was a two-out

home run to Chuck Carr in the seventh.

The Astros had just five other baserunners, with only one advancing as far as second base.

"I didn't hear the crowd at all, and I tried not to get carried away," said Smoltz. "No matter who was up there, I just felt like I could get them out. I have to maintain dominance in the game, if not, I look just average."

Smoltz's 10 postseason wins ties the Major-League record shared by Whitey Ford, who won all of his in the World Series, and Dave Stewart, who never won a division series game. Smoltz posted his second postseason complete game and the first since the 1991 NLCS against Pittsburgh.

Chipper Jones hit his fifth career postseason homer and Jeff Blauser and Michael Tucker added run-scoring singles for the Braves, who improved to 9-1 in Division Series play. The dominating record includes a four-game outburst of the Colorado Rockies in 1995 and a three-game sweep of the Los Angeles Dodgers last year.

The NL championship series will start on Tuesday. Florida went 9-3 against Atlanta during the season but finished nine games behind the Braves in the NL East.

Philippoussis in Swiss Indoor final

BASEL (AFP) — Mark Philippoussis of Australia reached the million-dollar Swiss Indoors ATP Tour tennis event final here Saturday when he beat Britain's Tim Henman in straight sets.

The 20-year-old Australian, who lost to Germany's Nicolas Pietrangeli in the Toulouse final in France last week, triumphed 7-6, 6-4 in 1hr 27min.

He plays either Britain's U.S. Open finalist Greg Rusedski or Petra Korda of the Czech Republic in Sunday's final.

A match of superb serving was decided by just four points Henman lost on serve — in the first set tie-break and in the third game of the second set.

Henman dropped serve for the first time in 24 games at this tournament in

the third game of the second set. Philippoussis then rode his luck to go 3-1 up when Henman was twice beaten by let cords.

Henman was unable to break back and Philippoussis served out the match in the 10th game, winning when Henman hit a backhand loop on the first match point.

Philippoussis took the first set 7-2 in a tie-break when Henman netted the Australian's second serve. Philippoussis had broken

Henman with a great backhand drop shot to go 2-1 up and Henman dropped serve twice in a row to allow the Australian to forge 5-2 ahead.

The Australian showed his class in the 11th game when he slid in to scoop a low forehand over for the game as Henman's drop shot appeared to have won the point.

There was very little in that rally but that was the way the whole match went.

Ultra Deluxe Furnished

Apartment For Rent
Located in Abdoun
3 BRS master, fully equipped
Under deck garages, storage RM.
Telephone & built in satellite.
For more info. pls. call 55 21 381

Michael Jordan reaffirms this season will be his last

DEERFIELD, Illinois (AFP) — Superstar Michael Jordan reaffirmed Friday that this National Basketball Association season will be his last, hitching his future plans to departing Chicago Bulls coach Phil Jackson.

One day after ducking reporters at media day, Jordan told WMVP Radio in Chicago that he will not play for any coach other than Jackson, who along with team management has determined that the 1997-98 season will be his last patrolling the sidelines for the champions.

"I'll quit," Jordan said at the team's practice facility here. "I wouldn't say quit. I'll say I'd retire. That's what I believe. I won't divert from that comment, not at all. What I feel in my heart is he's my coach. If he doesn't want to be here anymore, then it's hard for me to come in here."

After pondering several offers from other teams and haggling with Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf and general manager Jerry Krause, Jackson decided to return as coach for one season at a reported \$6 million. Weeks later, Jordan also decided to come back for

one more year at a reported \$33 million.

"If Phil's out gonna be here, certainly I'm not going to be here," said Jordan, who believes his presence does not affect how Reinsdorf runs the team. "My influence doesn't have anything to do with his decision-making. If that means Phil's not here, then Phil's not here."

During the NBA finals in June, Jackson said he wanted to spend more time with his family and needed to take time off in order to have surgery on his hip. When an agreement was reached with Jackson during the summer, Krause said it would be Jackson's last season.

"I think it's obvious that management already said this is Phil's last year," Jordan said. "That's the organization's decision. That's our decision."

Jordan also reaffirmed he would not play for another team, even if Jackson were coach.

As the Bulls prepare to defend their NBA title, the pursuit of a sixth championship in eight years is off on the wrong foot — literally.

All-Star forward Scottie Pippen did not practice Friday, the first day of NBA training camps, and is still nursing a sore left foot. Jackson said a decision would be made next week on whether Pippen will undergo surgery that would sideline him for two months.

Pippen also was a no-show at media day, as was forward Dennis Rodman, who remains unsigned. Forward Toni Kukoc, also nursing a foot injury, did practice without pain.

The Bulls defeated the Utah Jazz in six games last June to win their fifth title in seven years, the most enduring NBA dynasty since the Boston Celtics won eight straight titles from 1959 to 1966.

The driving force in that dynasty has been Jordan, who has won scoring titles and NBA Finals Most Valuable Player awards in each of Chicago's championship seasons.

Jordan has won nine scoring titles and is fifth on the all-time scoring list with 26,920 points. For his career, Jordan has averaged 33.6 points per game in the playoffs and at least 30 points per game every year in the postseason.

Helissio looking for repeat from same spot

PARIS (AP) — Helissio will be looking for a repeat in Sunday's Arc de Triomphe and the horse couldn't start from a better position.

Helissio begins Sunday's 2,400-metre race from the No. 5 slot, exactly where he started last year. He led nearly wire-to-wire to easily win Europe's most prestigious horse race.

If Helissio wins, he will be the first back-to-back winner since Alleged dined in 1977 and 1978.

In 1996 Helissio woo by nearly five lengths and was so far in front that jockey Olivier Peslier raised his arms in triumph far from the finish line.

Times have changed, though.

Peslier will now be on rival Peintre Celebre, con-

sidered the favorite by bettors in Britain pushing Helissio down below even Pilsudski, who was second to Helissio last year.

Peintre Celebre woo the Freoch Derby and the Grand Prix of Paris and is in top form, despite the loss in the Prix Niel in Longchamp, where he lost by a neck after a rough ride. He starts from the second slot.

Helissio will be ridden by Dominique Boeuf after Peslier and American Cash Asmussen had their problems with last year's Arc winner, causing a bit of a dispute. Boeuf has not ridden Helissio in more than a year.

Helissio has not done well since last year's victory. He was third in the King

George VI and Queo Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot in July. He also withdrew from the World Cup in Dubai after weather postponed the race and lost in the Japan Cup.

But there are things in his favour. He starts in the same spot where he woo last year's race; he does better on the Freoch grass and it may be sunny and a fast track. He had to contend with sticky conditions after a heavy rain at the King George race in Ascot.

Pilsudski, winner of last year's Breeders' Cup turf at Woodbine, Canada, and this year's Eclipse at Sandown, was second in the King George race and is the most consistent of the top trio and has a top jockey in Michael Kinane.

Swain captured the King George race in the slow conditions but may be handicapped if it is dry. Swain was fourth in last year's race.

This year American Asmussen is again riding Oscar Schindler who was third in 1996. The colt is looking good in winning its second Irish St. Leger in a row.

Others in the field to watch include Borgia, looking to be the first German winner in more than 20 years; My Emma, rated just behind the top three and Busy Flight, where trainer Barry Hills gives the jockey chores to his son Michael.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Tots Division 1990-1992 (All are winners)

Alsatad Exchange vs Delonghi

McDonald's vs Klim

Juniors One Division 1988-1989

Nokia 2 vs Aljawhara 1

Varta 0 vs IPCO 0

Standings: Nokia 7 points; Al Jawhara 3 points; Varta 4 points; IPCO 2 points

Junior Two Division 1986-1987

Intervet 3 vs RJ 1

RMCCS 2 vs Porsche 2

Standings: Intervet 7 points; RMCCS 4 points; Porsche 5 points; RJ 0 points

Mids Division 1984-1985

Arby's vs Amigo Nabil will be played on Sun Oct. 5th

Dune's Club vs Reinert will be played Tues Oct. 7th

Standings: Dune's Club 6 points; Amigo Nabil 3 points; Arby's 3 points; Reinert 0 points

Senior Division 1981-1983

Jordan Insurance 5 vs Zalatimo 5

Coffee Break 3 vs Coaches 3

Standings: Zalatimo 4 points; Coffee Break 3 points; Jordan Insurance 1 point

FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

IN DAHIAT AL RASHEED

Consists of 7 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 1 laundry room, 4 large guest & living rooms, 2 garages, 2 water wells, a garden and terrace.

For more information, please call: 669997

Improve your French!

Le Restaurant is very proud to announce the arrival of Chef Claude, renowned master of French cuisine. Chef Claude has a new spirit, energy and passion. He will provide you with the best of French cuisine.

The post carries attractive remuneration + family housing allowance, annual leave, home passage etc. Apply with complete C.V., recent photograph and copies of passport educational and experience certificates, salary drawn and expected, and contact Tel/Fax number, to

Managing Director
P.O. Box 7775
Doha, Qatar.

Reno orders probe into Gore's fund-raising calls

Barr blasts Reno for 'stalling tactics'

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Attorney-General Janet Reno ordered Friday an expanded investigation into Vice President Al Gore's fund-raising telephone calls before the 1996 election.

Ms. Reno took the next step in the process that eventually could lead to the appointment of an independent counsel to take over the Justice Department investigation of Mr. Gore's fund-raising calls from his White House office.

After an initial 30-day inquiry, Ms. Reno said she needed more time to determine if she has sufficient information to warrant turning over the investigation to an outside prosecutor.

In Tampa, Florida, Mr. Gore again said he did not break the law. "Everything I did was legal and proper," he told reporters at a school gymnasium right after disclosure of Ms. Reno's decision.

"We will continue to cooperate fully during this stage of the preliminary review and I remain confident that everything I did was legal and correct," he said.

Asked if the decision represented a setback, Mr. Gore replied, "no, not at all. This is not surprising. It was predicted from the very beginning by many of the legal analysts."

In a one-page filing with a special three-judge panel of the U.S. court of appeals, Ms. Reno said, "I hereby notify... the court that on this date I commenced a preliminary investigation... involving [the] Vice President of the United States Albert Gore, Jr."

She said "because of the

complexity of the factual and legal issues presented by this matter, I have been unable to determine whether there is sufficient specific and credible evidence to suggest a violation of Federal criminal law."

"As a result, I am required to commence a preliminary investigation," Ms. Reno concluded.

Justice Department officials said it will last 60 days.

Ms. Reno in the court filing made no mention of whether she would begin a similar inquiry into whether President Bill Clinton also made improper fund-raising telephone calls from the White House. She has two more weeks to decide on Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Gore has admitted making fund-raising calls from his office while Mr. Clinton has said he cannot recall making such calls, but has acknowledged he might have done so. Both have said that any such calls were legal.

Republicans immediately denounced Ms. Reno's move, saying it would only delay an already lengthy and problem-filled investigation by a Justice Department task force.

"We have gone from a flat-footed investigation to foot-dragging by the attorney general in delaying the appointment of an independent counsel," Republican Party Chairman Jim Nicholson said.

In Congress, Republican Representative Bob Barr of Georgia blasted Ms. Reno for "stalling tactics," and said further delay would be pointless. "Today, Al Gore must be a very happy man," said Mr. Barr, who has

threatened to start proceedings to impeach Ms. Reno.

In the expanded Gore investigation, Justice Department prosecutors under the law cannot subpoena witnesses or hear Grand Jury testimony, but they can consider whether he intended to violate the law, department officials said.

At issue is a 114-year-old Federal law that bars soliciting or receiving contributions in government offices, a prohibition put in place to stop elected officials from asking their subordinates to make political donations.

Ms. Reno in the court filing did not even mention that law or the campaign fund-raising allegations under investigation.

Ms. Reno said she did not have to remove herself from the case. "I have no current or recent personal or financial relationship with... Gore, such as would require my recusal from discharging my responsibilities under the law."

Justice Department officials said Ms. Reno will also tell House Judiciary Committee Republicans about the decision concerning Mr. Gore, but will reject all of their other reasons cited in a letter last month demanding that she name an independent counsel.

They said Ms. Reno in her response to be sent Friday will reject the request by Republicans to investigate President Clinton in connection with White House coffees and sleepovers in the Lincoln bedroom, and numerous other fund-raising allegations.



Spain's royal wedding

Spain's King Juan Carlos (right) attends the wedding of his daughter, Princess Cristina, Saturday. Princess Cristina married Olympic handball star, Inaki Urdangarin, inside a majestic Gothic cathedral filled with royalty from around the world. Representing Jordan were Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania, and Prince Ghazi (see story on page 5) (Reuters photo)

Jailed Palestinian bomber says he wanted to avenge Ayyash killing

Ayyash was my friend and my teacher and his martyrdom affected me deeply — Salameh

WASHINGTON (R) — The Palestinian mastermind behind three suicide bombings in Israel has said he wanted to avenge the killing of his mentor and he personally smuggled 39 kilograms of TNT into Israel for the blasts.

In a transcript released on Friday of an interview in an Israeli prison with CBS tele-

vision's "60 Minutes," Hassan Salameh said he sought to retaliate for the killing of Yehiya Ayyash.

Ayyash, who was known as "the engineer" and organized an earlier wave of Islamist suicide bombings in Israel, was killed in January last year when his cellular telephone exploded.

"Ayyash was my friend and

my teacher and his martyrdom affected me deeply. So I was forced to retaliate and to prove to the world that his death would not go unnoticed," Salameh told CBS in the interview, to be broadcast Sunday. Hamas blamed Israel for his killing.

Salameh, a Hamas commander, said he infiltrated Israel from the Gaza Strip at night, carrying over an electronic security fence 39 kilograms of TNT taken from Egyptian landmines and evaded patrols while walking for 24 kilometres.

A stolen Israeli car was waiting for him. "I had a telephone. I had weapons and I had the explosives. I had all the equipment for a fighter," said Salameh, who was sentenced to a total of 1,170 years in jail for the bus bombings.

Salameh said he would have been ready to give his life as a suicide bomber but was charged with organising the attacks.

"I could have become a martyr. I could have carried the bag with explosives. But I had my own specialty and my own job to do," Salameh said, adding that he turned to Mohammad Abu Wardeh to recruit the suicide bombers for the bus missions.

Wardeh, now jailed in a Palestinian prison, told CBS he selected Majidi, a 19-year-

old student and his first cousin.

"I took his pulse. I asked him how much he loved his land. How much he believed in paradise. His answers were positive. So I asked him whether he wanted to be involved in an operation," he said.

"I told him 'I need a final decision' and he said: 'I am perfectly convinced and I want to meet God as a martyr'."

Salameh then briefed Majidi at a mosque on his mission. "He was a human being like you and me. He had ambitions, a future, a family he loved. No big problems in his life," Salameh said.

"It's not really a very difficult thing to do. The explosives are placed in a bag on the shoulder. The press button is outside on a strap and then you press the button and that's it."

More than 40 people were killed in suicide bomb blasts on a No. 18 bus in Jerusalem and at a bus stop in Ashkelon on Feb. 25 last year and on another bus in Jerusalem on March 3.

Asked whether when he saw pictures of the carnage on the two buses he had the slightest feeling that the attacks were awful, Salameh said he did not want to answer the question.

U.S. State Department backs laser-satellite test

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department Friday endorsed a Pentagon decision to fire the most powerful U.S. military laser against a \$60 million satellite to test its destructive power, saying it will not complicate arms control goals.

"We don't have trouble with this test," spokesman James P. Rubin told a news briefing.

"It's not a test of an anti-satellite system. It's an experiment that will not destroy the satellite will not result in any debris will not pose any risk," he said.

"And we see no reason why it should be a problem, especially in an environment where things are moving forward with the Russians on subjects like the [1972] ABM [Anti-Ballistic Missile] treaty," he added.

The test is expected to take place from a New Mexico test site in the next few days.

Pentagon officials, who announced their plans Thursday, say it will be the first time that a laser beam has been flashed through

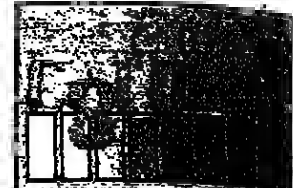
space to test its potential for destruction.

The military officials said the laser firing is aimed at achieving a greater understanding of how to protect U.S. satellites from such attacks.

But officials also acknowledged the test also will provide data that could be used to refine the laser for use in future military conflicts or to develop additional lasers for anti-satellite use, envisioned in the futuristic weapons programme of the 1980s known as "Star Wars."

The Washington Post reported that some State Department officials were concerned that the test might cause repercussions in Russia, where legislators have balked at ratifying the Start II Arms Reduction treaty.

But Mr. Rubin dismissed that suggestion and said the test envisioned "doesn't pose any problem with becoming an antiballistic missile system... this experiment does not violate any arms control agreement."



Man suffers sleepless nights due to radio receiving dentures

BUDAPEST (AFP) — A 69-year-old Hungarian who received new dentures dashed back to his dentist in panic because they broadcast a radio programme day and night, state radio said Saturday. For a few sleepless nights the man was treated to hearing Hungary's main state radio station from inside his mouth. His sceptical dentist was convinced when he accompanied his patient to his home in the northern village Sajohabony, close to a powerful radio transmitting tower. After consulting with radio experts, the doctor found that the dentures' metal parts functioned as a radio receiver. He solved the patient's problem by lacing his mouth with extra-thin wire to short-circuit the gadget.

Now you see it, now you don't

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian tax authorities are not impressed with the tricks of superstar David Copperfield, charging that the U.S. magician spirited away some of his earnings from shows in Moscow last month. Tax service chief Alexander Pochinok told Moscow Echo Radio Friday that the accounts submitted "show that there were lots of empty seats in the concert halls, but according to all those who attended, the shows were jam-packed." Pochinok said the tax service had to investigate the matter because the organisers of the shows, which took place on September 7-10, were Russians. "A notification about Copperfield's earnings in Russia should be sent to his home town. They'll be happy about that," Pochinok added.

Italian actress Ornella Muti became mother at 18

ROME (AFP) — Italian actress Ornella Muti spoke Friday of how she became a mother at the age of 18, as she presented the film "Mi Fai Un Favore" ("Do Me A Favour") in which she plays the part of a woman poised for an abortion. My first daughter was a play-thing, and my life was completely transformed," said the actress, now 42. "At the age of 18, I fell pregnant. I chose life rather than death for my daughter," Muti continued. By contrast, in the film, directed by Giancarlo Scarchilli, she plays the part of "a woman who discovers her pregnancy, decides on an abortion, but then, at the last moment, changes her mind and flees the hospital."

Tina Turner and Eros Ramazzotti record pop video

NICE (AFP) — American singer Tina Turner and Italian crooner Eros Ramazzotti recorded a pop video in the Nice-area village of Peille in southeastern France. Turner, who owns a house in Villefranche-Sur-Mer, and Ramazzotti made the video "Cosa Della Vita" on the streets of the countryside village with the participation of its residents.

Discharged soldier would not leave dog behind

BUCHAREST (AFP) — A conscript having completed his military service was arrested after he took along his unit's Alsatian dog to his native town in eastern Romania, police said Saturday. The dog's disappearance was not discovered until the next day, when the unit's commander reported it to the police. Constantin Amariei, 20, was caught some 80 kilometres away by the police, who discovered the dog-lever, had left his camp with several other souvenirs, such as gun chargers and gas masks.

StarTAC™

The First

Motorola, the company that brought you the first cellular phone in the world, now brings you the ultimate in portability.

StarTAC™ - the first truly wearable cellular telephone that gives you virtually unlimited talktime, thanks to the swap and talk battery feature, is available in a range of packages to suit your needs.

It also gives you advanced features such as full fax and data capability, Vibracall™ and a quick access key making it simple to use.

StarTAC™

MOTOROLA

What you never thought possible.™

© Motorola and StarTAC are trademarks of Motorola Inc. © Copyright 1997 Motorola.